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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

FRANCE'S DECISION: "The approval by the French National Assembly of the agreements worked out in a spirit of co-operation and comprehension last autumn at London and Paris is a cause for deep satisfaction," said the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, in a statement on December 30, concerning the action taken by the French National Assembly in Paris on the London and Paris Agreements.

"I realize that there were doubts and hesitations and much soul-searching in Paris before the necessary decisions were taken. The Assembly, however, with what I believe to be a wise and realistic understanding of the situation, have chosen to follow the course which is not only best in the interests of France, but which was also required if the Atlantic coalition, whose strength and unity is essential for peace, was to be maintained.

"It would indeed have been a sad day if some other course had been followed, through fear of the consequences of a restoration of German sovereignty, which included the right and obligation of Germany to share in her own defence.

"We must now prove that the rearmament of Germany, not unlimited nor uncontrolled, but

within the context of NATO and Western European Union, is not only no menace to France, or to any other country, but, on the contrary will help to associate Germany with the free Western world in such a way that peace and security will be strengthened.

"Without the close and friendly co-operation and understanding between France and Germany, such a strengthening of peace would be difficult, if not impossible. That is another reason why the decisions taken in Paris will be welcomed by the majority of the Canadian people."

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GATT DISCUSSIONS: The Department of External Affairs announced on January 4, that the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Walter Harris, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, would visit Washington Thursday, January 6, for discussions with the appropriate U.S. Cabinet Members on several problems arising out of the current Review Session of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The discussions were expected to take place during Thursday afternoon, January 7.