

## *NATO Ministerial Meeting*

BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 1967

NATO defence and foreign ministers met in Brussels on December 12, 13 and 14. Canada was represented by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Léo Cadieux. On December 12, meetings were held of the Nuclear Defence Affairs Committee (NDAC) and the Defence Planning Committee (DPC) and on December 13 and 14 of the NATO Council.

In reporting to the House of Commons on December 18, Mr. Martin stated :

"This was an important meeting. Indeed, I believe it may turn out to have been one of the key meetings in the history of the alliance. NATO has reappraised its essential objectives and found them still valid, agreed on a new military strategy, and established guide-lines for shifting additional emphasis to its evolving political — as distinct from military — activity. The guide-lines were the product of the so-called Harmel Exercise. At our last meeting in Paris in 1966, the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr. Harmel, recalling the initiative taken by Canada in 1964, had proposed a study of the future of the alliance. As a result of this serious reappraisal, it was possible to reach a consensus among all 15 members on the objectives and future tasks of the alliance . . . .

"The member governments have confirmed that there is a continuing need for defensive military arrangements; I wish it were otherwise, but such arrangements are required, just as the regular payment of an insurance premium. In this field the alliance must display determination and firmness.

"It was also confirmed that the activities of the alliance to promote a peaceful settlement, that is its political role, have assumed greater importance and should be emphasized. Here is something which is particularly new and challenging. In this field the alliance will require imagination and vision. It was affirmed that the political activities of the alliance will be all the more effective if there is full and timely consultation among the members. It was agreed that the military tasks of the alliance are not incompatible with, but rather a necessary complement to, a constructive political role for the alliance.

"What does this signify for the alliance and for Canada? In the military sphere, it means that, as insurance against possible revived Soviet pressures in Europe, bearing in mind that Soviet military capabilities are still increasing, the alliance must maintain an effective deterrent force. For Canada, as a partner in the alliance, it means continuing to contribute, as appropriate, to the alliance's forces based in Europe and to those based in Canada.

"On the political side, the conclusions of the Harmel Exercise mean that