

Canada Weekly

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Canada's new Prime Minister sends message to NATO Council meeting

Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs A.E. Gottlieb, representing Canada at the Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in The Hague, May 30-31, delivered a message from Prime Minister Joe Clark to Secretary-General Joseph Luns in reply to Mr. Luns' congratulatory message on Mr. Clark's recent election to office. Mr. Luns read the Prime Minister's message to the Council at its opening plenary session.

Expressing his appreciation for the Secretary-General's good wishes, Mr. Clark said he was "heartened" by Mr. Luns' affirmation of the importance of Canada's contribution to the alliance. The message continued:

"For 30 years, NATO has served Canada and its allies well in safeguarding the peace. The basic premise of the alliance — the indivisibility of the defence of its European and North American wings — has the support of most Canadians. I have personally made it clear that I look upon NATO not only as Canada's first line defence but as a basic diplomatic infrastructure for consultation and co-operation within the Western alliance. I can assure

you that this perspective will be at the forefront of my mind and that of my colleagues as we assume our responsibilities for the Government of Canada."

Meeting agenda

The framework of the Ministerial Meeting last month had been set by the momentum from the spring summit meetings of 1977 and 1978, which launched a study on East-West relations and established the Long-Term Defence Program.

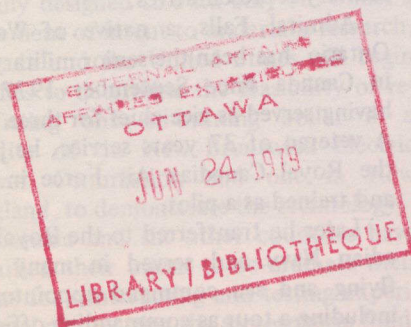
In light of the imminent signing of the SALT II agreement, the meeting focused on the pursuit of NATO's dual strategy of deterrence and *détente*. Also on the agenda were the implications of nuclear armaments for Western security, including the balance between deterrence and defence on the one hand and *détente* and disarmament on the other.

Canada and NATO

Membership in NATO has been a major part of Canada's foreign policy for 30 years. NATO is both a collective/defence organization and a forum for political consultation. Successive federal govern-



NATO today. Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) near Mons, Belgium.



Three-hundred-and-forty-one years ago June 11... Canada's first recorded earthquake took place.

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