

- (4) a further contribution to Latin American development, in close co-operation with the Inter-American Development Bank, through the availability of new and additional lending resources. |

I make this announcement at this time in view of the OECD ministerial meeting in Paris next Tuesday and Wednesday, at which the subject of aid to developing countries will be discussed.

Paris Meeting of OECD

On November 21, Mr. Martin made the following report to the House of Commons on the recently-concluded Paris meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development:

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development provides an important bridge between the European and North American parts of the Atlantic Community. It is expected shortly to be broadened by the inclusion of Japan, when the Parliamentary procedures in that country have been completed. These links among such key countries make this Organization extremely important in Canada's general foreign relations. The OECD provides a forum for consultation among representatives of the principal industrial nations of the West.

The most important feature of this particular meeting was the discussion of assistance by member countries to the less-developed nations of the world. I emphasized the importance which the Canadian Government attaches to the efforts of the OECD to improve the co-ordination of aid. I indicated that the statistics frequently referred to comparing aid programmes of Canada and other countries were often misleading and needed to be interpreted with great care. There are problems of definition and content which must be examined critically. Moreover, as the Organization has recognized in the past, there are qualitative as well as quantitative factors which must be introduced for a meaningful comparison.

I am happy to report that representatives of other member governments warmly received the details of the increase in our own aid programme which were announced in this House last Thursday. The meeting also considered the trade relations of member countries with the less-developed countries and agreed on the importance of approaching the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development with the intention of making a positive contribution to the necessary efforts to expand the trade of these developing countries. The occasion of this OECD meeting provided an opportunity for the ministers from the NATO countries to take part in an informal NATO discussion on East-West economic and other relations. This is, of course, a subject under continuing study by the Organization, and we had a frank and useful discussion of the significance of recent developments.

In particular, the Council considered the role of government credit and government guarantees of private credit in trade with the Communist countries. No