

PRESS RELEASE



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON, EST
SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 1955.

No. 24

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Visit of Sr. Mario Scelba, Prime Minister of Italy, and Sr. Gaetano Martino, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During their visit to Ottawa, on the invitation of the Canadian Government, Sr. Scelba, Prime Minister of Italy, and Sr. Martino, Minister of Foreign Affairs, had frank and friendly conversations with Mr. St. Laurent and Mr. Pearson, as well as with other Ministers, on the widest range of subjects indicative of the warm relations between the two countries. Officials of the Department of External Affairs also met with members of Sr. Scelba's party for an exchange of views on questions of mutual concern to Italy and Canada.

The partnership of Italy and Canada in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which remains the cornerstone of the policies of both countries, was discussed and both sides stressed the continuing need for the closest political co-operation in the defensive alliance. The advantages of Western European co-ordination in many fields of common interest, and its relation to the North Atlantic community were reviewed.

The status of ratification of the Paris Agreements in the Parliaments of the various countries party to the treaties was reviewed and gratification was expressed at the great progress achieved towards completion of the process of ratification.

The question of East-West relations, both in Europe, where both countries have such deep interests and common responsibilities, and in the Far East, was examined. The Ministers agreed that efforts should be continued to achieve a reduction of tension by seeking solutions to the problems still outstanding. As for the problem of armaments, it was agreed that its solution has to be found in the general limitation of armaments guaranteed by an effective control accepted by all concerned.

While there were no unresolved bilateral problems requiring consideration by the Ministers, the opportunity was taken to assess the situation in the field of migration where both countries have complementary interests; the Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved to date, and they look forward to the continuation of the policies which have permitted these results. They also discussed in a general way economic and cultural relations between the two countries.
