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CANADA - U.S. PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET IN WASHINGTON

The following is the text of the press statement issued in Washington on June 9 by the Canada-United States Inter-Parliamentary Group:

"The Canada-U.S.A. Inter-Parliamentary Group concluded two days of discussion in Washington today. Twenty-four members of the Parliament of Canada, representing all political parties, participated in the discussions. This was the fifth meeting of the Group, which held its first and organizational meeting in Washington in January 1959. Since that time, meetings have been held alternately in Canada and U.S.A. The fourth session was held in Ottawa in February of this year.

"Canadian delegates were welcomed at the opening plenary session by Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who underlined the importance of these meetings of legislators of both countries as a valuable means of promoting better understanding and appreciation of their mutual problems. Later in the day Canadian delegates were received by President Kennedy at the White House.

"Committee meetings were held on both days. One committee under the co-chairmanship of Senator Mark Drouin, Speaker of Canadian Senate, and Senator Homer Copenhart and later Senator George Aiken, U.S. Senate, discussed defence and foreign policy matters of mutual interest. The other committee, under the co-chairmanship of Representative Cornelius Gallagher, U.S. House of Representatives, and Roland Michener, Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, discussed economic questions of concern to both countries.

"At the final plenary session today reports of the two committees were discussed and approved.

"Members of both delegations were scheduled to leave Washington late Friday afternoon for Norfolk, Virginia, where they will be the guests of the Continental Army Command on Saturday and will attend air and ground exercises taking place at Fort Storey and Fort Eustis. The Group is also expected to visit the National Space Agency. On the same day the wives of the delegates will visit Jamestown and Williamsburg. Both delegations will return to their respective capitals on Sunday afternoon.

"Among the principal subjects discussed:

REPORT OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE

1. *Western Hemisphere Co-operation:*

(a) Canadian participation in the OAS: U.S. members supported President Kennedy's recent suggestion that Canada consider joining the OAS. Canadian members agreed that Canada and the U.S. must stand together in supporting common objectives within the hemisphere, to raise standards of living and help meet the Communist threat. The problem for Canada is to decide whether joining the OAS would be in the best interest of Canada and the Western hemisphere. This question is the subject of lively public discussion in Canada at the present time.

Among the arguments advanced in favour of Canada's association with the OAS were the assistance which Canada might be able to give toward raising living standards in Latin America, and additional weight of Canadian leadership and stability in hemispheric policy discussions, re-