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STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 55/1

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

Approval of Protocol on Accession of Federal Republic
of Germany

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made in the House of Commons January 20, 1955.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, moved:

Resolved, that it is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the accession of the Federal Republic of Germany, signed by Canada at Paris on October 23, 1954, and that this House do approve the same.

Mr. Pearson spoke as follows:

In rising to speak to this resolution -- or rather I should say, in view of the state of my voice, in attempting to speak to this resolution -- I am afraid I will have to crave the indulgence of the House in that, voice permitting, I think it will take me longer to go into this important matter than I would normally like to detain the House. But it is, and I am sure hon. members will agree with me, a very important question indeed. I doubt whether any matter placed before the House this session will have greater long-range implications for our country and for peace. Because of its importance I should like to examine this particular protocol in its context.

What is that context? Part of it is the series of related agreements which were worked out at the London and Paris meetings last autumn, and which with this particular protocol make up a co-ordinated programme. But more fundamentally the context in which we should consider this protocol is, I think, nothing less than the present position of the cold war and our chances for peace.

Incomparably the most important political problem facing Canadians today is the danger of that cold war becoming a blazing thermonuclear one. We know that such a war, of course, would threaten the very existence of every nation, indeed of the whole human race. The supreme task of statesmanship today, therefore, is to act so that the fantastic physical power which scientists are placing at man's disposal will be used not for warfare but for welfare.