

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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## THE NATO ALLIANCE - A MAJORITY VIEW

Statement by the Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons, March 18, 1966.

I rise to make a declaration that is being made by 14 countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at this hour....

The Government of France on March 10 delivered a note to the Canadian Ambassador in Paris setting out the position of that Government regarding France's future participation in NATO.

The French note, which I tabled this morning, states that France intends to withdraw all its land and air forces still remaining under NATO command. French naval forces have already been withdrawn. France also requires the removal from French territory of all NATO military headquarters, including SHAPE itself. Finally, France requires the withdrawal of foreign forces and installations from France, unless the forces are placed under French rather than NATO operational command.

It is the view of the Canadian Government that Canadian forces at the disposition of the alliance in Europe should be under the operational command of the Supreme Allied Commander. The direct implication for Canada of the French decision, therefore, is that we shall have to relinquish our air base at Marville and the air division headquarters at Metz and relocate these forces and facilities elsewhere. Other Canadian forces in Europe outside France are not directly affected.

The French Government also addressed notes to all other members of NATO. These notes are all substantially similar. The notes addressed to the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada deal additionally with matters which are the subject of bilateral agreements with France.

The French intention to withdraw from the integrated military arrangements established under NATO has been the subject of consultation among the other 14 members of the Organization, who have determined to maintain the integrated defence structure of the alliance. The experience of the last two world wars and modern developments in warfare permit no effective alternative to unified command and planning arrangements for allied