



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

For Immediate Release
Thursday, December 30, 1954.

No. 90

Text of Statement by the Secretary of State
for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson,
concerning the action taken by the French
National Assembly in Paris on the London and
Paris Agreements.

The approval by the French National Assembly of the agreements worked out in a spirit of co-operation and comprehension last autumn at London and Paris is a cause for deep satisfaction.

I realize that there were doubts and hesitations and much soul-searching in Paris before the necessary decisions were taken. The Assembly, however, with what I believe to be a wise and realistic understanding of the situation, have chosen to follow the course which is not only best in the interests of France, but which was also required if the Atlantic coalition, whose strength and unity is essential for peace, was to be maintained.

It would indeed have been a sad day if some other course had been followed, through fear of the consequences of a restoration of German sovereignty, which included the right - and the obligation - of Germany to share in her own defence.

We must now prove that the rearmament of Germany, not unlimited nor uncontrolled, but within the context of NATO and Western European Union, is not only no menace to France, or to any other country, but, on the contrary will help to associate Germany with the free Western world in such a way that peace and security will be strengthened.

Without the close and friendly co-operation and understanding between France and Germany, such a strengthening of peace would be difficult, if not impossible. That is another reason why the decisions taken in Paris will be welcomed by the majority of the Canadian people.

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PRESS RELEASE

The Department of External Affairs today announced the composition of the Canadian Delegation to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting which is being held in Sydney, Australia from January 8 to January 15, 1954.

The Delegation will be as follows:

Honourable D.C. Abbott,
Minister of Finance.

Mr. W.F. Bull,
Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. J.J. Deutsch,
Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance.

Mr. Louis Rasminsky,
Executive Assistant to the Governors
of the Bank of Canada.

Mr. W.A. Irwin,
Canadian High Commissioner, Australia.

Commonwealth Prime Ministers decided at their meeting in London last June that it would be useful if Finance Ministers met early in the New Year to review developments in the economic field since the Commonwealth Economic Meeting of December 1952.

*used to announce inquiries
ATD*