



# PRESS RELEASE

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ANKARA 7 ~~P.M.~~ EDT, SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1954.  
*A.M.*

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the first six of 82 Canadian F.86E Sabrejets have been handed over by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. H. O. Moran at Eskisehir Airport, near Ankara, to the Deputy Prime Minister Fatin Zorlu and to the Turkish Minister of National Defence Ethem Menderes.

These six jet fighters, flown to Turkey by pilots of the RCAF, are part of Canada's contribution to Turkey under the Canadian Mutual Aid Programme. The balance of the 82 Sabrejets will be delivered to Turkey in forthcoming months.

In addition to these aircraft, Canada has contributed to Turkey 195 spare jet engines and other military equipment to the value of approximately \$70 million.

During the ceremony, in which senior Turkish and NATO officials participated, Mr. Moran read a brief message from Prime Minister St. Laurent. "In giving these fighter aircraft to the Turkish Air Force," Mr. St. Laurent said, "Canada will feel an even greater confidence - which will be shared by your other NATO partners - in your ability to continue to contribute to the defence of peace and the promotion of security."

The Prime Minister also noted that some of the Canadian jet aircraft for Turkey would undoubtedly be flown by Turkish aircrew who have been or are in training with the RCAF in Canada under the NATO Air Training Programme.

A message from the Secretary General of NATO, Lord Ismay, stated that all the members of the North Atlantic Alliance would be gratified by the contribution of these aircraft which would "strengthen our means to defend ourselves against aggression", and that he was pleased that these aircraft were now to be turned over "to the capable hands of the Turkish Air Force for assignment in a new country, but always for the same cause, the preservation of peace".

Among the officials at the ceremony were General Ucaner, Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish Air Force, General Ucar, Chief of the Turkish Air Staff, General Eaton, U.S.A.F., Commander of the Sixth NATO Tactical Air Force, and General Webster, Chief of the Turkish-U.S. Air Group. Squadron Leader M.W. Dickinson of Lachine, Que., has been temporarily stationed in Turkey to assist the Turkish Air Force in adapting their facilities to handle the new aircraft.

Among members of the R.C.A.F. that flew these aircraft to Greece and Turkey were Squadron Leader J. W. Fiander, Montreal; Flying Officer G. R. King, Cranberry Lake, B.C.; Flying Officer J. W. Hind, Weyburn, Sask.; Flying Officer R. W. Fentiman, Steveston, B.C.; Flying Officer I. H. Firth, Victoria, B.C.; Flying Officer C. R. Ayres, Baie Comeau, Que.

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS:

Attached are copies of the Prime Minister's statement and Lord Ismay's message which were read during the ceremony.

PUBLIC CEREMONY - TURKEY

Prime Minister's Message:

"It is a great honour and pleasure for me to send a message to the people of Turkey on this occasion. Today the Turkish Air Force is receiving the first of more than 80 Sabrejet aircraft given as part of Canada's programme of Mutual Aid to NATO.

"Some of these aircraft will undoubtedly be flown by Turkish aircrew who have trained, or are in training, with the R.C.A.F. in Canada. We have warmly welcomed these young men and feel confident of the part they will play in the Turkish Air Force.

"Although we in Canada are geographically separated from you by half the world, we are, in fact, bound firmly together in NATO. It is on this Alliance of free, peace-loving nations that the independence and security of each depends.

"We in Canada are confident that the collective strength of NATO, because it ensures that aggression against any member could be successfully resisted, provides the most effective deterrent to aggression against any NATO member from whatever quarter. In giving these fighter aircraft to the Turkish Air Force, Canada will feel an even greater confidence - which will be shared by your other NATO partners - in your ability to continue to contribute to the defence of peace and the promotion of security."

PUBLIC CEREMONY - TURKEY

Lord Ismay's Message:

"I am very sorry that I cannot myself be present at this hand-over ceremony. Apart from the gratification all of us in the Atlantic Alliance draw from the strengthening of our means to defend ourselves against aggression, I have a particular, personal interest in these particular Sabrejets.

"I saw them drawn up on St. Hubert's airfield, near Montreal, in Canada, in March, 1953, just before their Royal Canadian Air Force crews were to take off in them across the Atlantic to add their impressive weight to NATO's defences. It was an icy-cold, wintry day at St. Hubert's, when the Canadian Defence Minister, Mr. Brooke Claxton and I had the honour of wishing good fortune and happy landings to that magnificent body of men.

"But that does not end my association with these particular Sabrejets, for I was privileged to see them again at Grostenquin in France, when that airbase was formally handed over by the French Government to the Canadians.

"It would have given me great pleasure to be present in Turkey today to see these aircraft turned over to the capable hands of the Turkish Air Force for assignment in a new country, but always for the same cause, the preservation of peace."

PUBLIC CEREMONY - TURKEY

Message from the Prime Minister of Turkey

"I have been deeply touched by the message sent to the Turkish nation by His Excellency Mr. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, on the occasion of the delivery to the Turkish Government of the first of 82 Sabrejet aircraft presented by the Government of Canada to our Air Force. I wish in particular to thank the Prime Minister for this very kind gesture.

"In addition, we have been extremely pleased by the words of confidence and appreciation for the Turkish Air Force contained in His Excellency Mr. St. Laurent's message. The Turkish pilots, while defending the Turkish skies in these aircraft which are among the most perfect product of modern technique, would at the same time be defending the independence and freedom of all the NATO nations which are united around the common ideal.

"The aid provided to our country by the Government of Canada which is as valuable materially as it is expressive morally is not confined to the provision of aircraft and equipment to our Air Force. The Canadian Government is also furnishing substantial aid to our land forces and navy. In addition, the pilots whose numbers we hope will increase are being trained and further instructed in the admirable training centres in Canada in an atmosphere of sincere friendship. Furthermore, the Canadian Government is contributing substantially to the construction of various facilities in Turkey under the NATO Common Infrastructure Programme.

"The Turkish nation is aware of all these aids and fully appreciates their due value. We are confident that these aids will bring the Turkish and Canadian nations closer together and that the cooperation between the two nations will develop still further in every field within the very near future.

"In concluding my words I wish to express the pleasure and the honour I feel in conveying the feelings of warm friendship and brotherhood of the Turkish nation towards the Canadian nation."