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June 10, 1964

At the invitation of the Canadian Government, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Ludwig Erhard, visited Ottawa from the afternoon of June 9 to the morning of June 11. Accompanied by his Foreign Minister, Dr. Gerhard Schroeder, Dr. Erhard had talks with the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. L.B. Pearson, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Paul Martin, in which senior officials of both governments participated. The Chancellor was also received by Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Madame Vanier. Dr. Schroeder and Mr. Martin continued their discussions begun last month during Mr. Martin's visit to Bonn.

The visit took place in the warm and friendly atmosphere which has characterized the development of relations in every field between Canada and Germany in recent years. The discussions reflected a close harmony of views on all important questions and strengthened the framework for future co-operation between Canada and Germany.

In their review of the international situation, the Prime Minister and Chancellor noted with satisfaction the relaxation of tensions between the Soviet Union and the West in certain areas, including the gradual improvement of relations with Eastern European countries. While hoping that this development would continue, they regretted that it had not yet been accompanied by any progress toward the solution of major problems. It remains, therefore, essential for the free world to maintain its defensive strength, while remaining ready to take advantage of every opportunity to enlarge the areas of agreement with the communist world.

In Europe, it was agreed, the main cause of tension remained the continuing division of Germany. Dr. Erhard took the opportunity to explain his government's policy for achieving German reunification in

peace and freedom. The Prime Minister expressed Canadian understanding and support for Germany in every peaceful effort to reunite its people through the exercise of their right of self-determination in freedom. Both leaders agreed that a solution of the German problem would open up real possibilities for an improvement in international relations.

The two governments were in full agreement on the continuing need for a strong and cohesive Atlantic Alliance which continues to be indispensable in the defence of the West. Both leaders recognized the necessity of seeking to encourage peaceful relations and of working toward the relaxation of international tensions and universal and controlled disarmament. They stressed the importance of the trans-Atlantic nature of the Alliance, and agreed that the twin dangers of European and North American isolation must be avoided.

Both governments reaffirmed their support for a greater liberalization of world trade, and expressed their determination to contribute effectively to this goal. The Ministers were convinced that success of the current Kennedy round of tariff negotiations in the GATT could make a great contribution to this objective. They agreed that it was also important to make suitable arrangements for agricultural products in the Kennedy round.

The Chancellor and the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of assisting the developing countries to raise their standards of living, and recalled the substantial contribution which both Canada and Germany were making. In this connection the Prime Minister recalled the recent substantial increase in the Canadian aid program. Both leaders expressed the hope that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would devise effective and reliable solutions to the trade problems faced by the developing countries.

The Chancellor and the Prime Minister reviewed the extensive bilateral relations which have developed between Canada and Germany in recent years. They expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of these relations, and were agreed that the present mutually beneficial co-operation should be extended in every possible way.

The Ministers noted that Germany and Canada were now among each other's most important trading partners. They agreed that there were good opportunities for further increases in trade and investment between the two countries.

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor noted the important contribution which the more than one million Canadians of German ancestry have made to the development of Canada.

Dr. Erhard recalled that substantial numbers of Canadian troops had been welcomed in Germany as an important contribution to collective western defence since 1951. The Ministers expressed pleasure at the recent granting of the Freedom of the City of Soest to the Royal Canadian Regiment, the first such occasion in the history of Germany.

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor noted with satisfaction the increasing exchanges by the two countries in the cultural and educational fields. They noted with particular pleasure that about 150 Canadian university students were spending the current summer vacation on a working holiday in Germany at the initiative of the Federal German Government. Ministers were agreed as to the desirability of increasing cultural contacts between the two countries, and that exploratory discussions on these questions should take place in the near future.