



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, today announced that a Committee of Arrangements for the forthcoming NATO Ministerial Meeting has been appointed and that it will be headed by Lieutenant-General S.F. Clark, Chairman of the National Capital Commission. Opening date for the three-day conference will be May 22.

Working with General Clark will be representatives of the various government departments involved and of the armed forces.

The public ceremony opening the conference will be held in the Chamber of the House of Commons and the Ministerial meetings will be held in the West Block. Renovation of the historic West Block, which has been under way for some time, is now being accelerated to provide accommodation and facilities for the meetings.

The West Block is considered ideally suited for the NATO Meeting. Not only is it of historic significance but it combines central location and accommodation not only for the meetings and the related Secretariat activities but also for the international press representatives expected to come to Ottawa for the occasion.

The last NATO Ministerial Meeting in Canada was held in September, 1951, and on that occasion the Railway Committee Room in the Centre Block was adapted for the purpose. Since that time three countries have joined NATO - Greece and Turkey in October, 1951, and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1954 -

and this has entailed a corresponding increase in the members attending NATO meetings.

It is expected that around 750 persons will come to Ottawa for the meetings, including the delegations of the fifteen member-countries of NATO, NATO Secretariat officials, and representatives of the international press and other information media.