



25  
April 29, 1966

VISIT TO OTTAWA OF INDIAN MINISTER OF  
PLANNING AND SOCIAL WELFARE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that the Minister of Planning and Social Welfare in the Government of India, Mr. Asoka Mehta, will pay a brief visit to Ottawa next week. Mr. Mehta will arrive by air from New York late on Sunday, May 1, and will depart early in the morning of Tuesday, May 3. On Monday, May 2, Mr. Mehta is scheduled to see the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Minister of Finance

- 30 -

29 avril, 1966

LE MINISTRE INDIEN DU PLAN ET DU BIEN-  
ETRE EN VISITE A OTTAWA

Le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, M. Paul Martin, annonce que M. Asoka Mehta, ministre du Plan et du Bien-Etre pour le gouvernement indien, fera une courte visite à Ottawa la semaine prochaine. M. Mehta arrivera par avion de New-York vers la fin de la journée, lundi le 2 mai, et repartira au début de la matinée, mardi le 3 mai. M. Mehta aura lundi un entretien avec le Premier Ministre, le secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, et le ministre des Finances.

- 30 -

## ASOKA MEHTA

Mr. Asoka Mehta has been Minister of Planning since January 24, 1966. Born on October 24, 1911, Mr. Mehta studied at Wilson College and the University School of Economics, Bombay. He was the founder member of the Congress Socialist Party, formed in 1934. He became the editor of the Party's weekly paper started in the same year and continued to serve in that capacity until 1939.

In 1949, Mr. Mehta organized the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (Indian Workers' Society), the third largest labour union in the country today and became its first General Secretary. From 1950 to 1953, Mr. Mehta served as General Secretary of the Socialist Party. In 1959 he was elected Chairman of the Praja Socialist Party. He was deputy leader of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations in 1963; in February 1964, the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru appointed him as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Mehta is the author of several books: THE COMMUNAL TRIANGLE IN INDIA; WHO OWNS INDIA; POLITICAL HIND OF INDIA; DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM; POLITICS OF PLANNED ECONOMY; SOCIALISM AND PEASANTRY; INDIAN SHIPPING; and STUDIES IN ASIAN SOCIALISM.