

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



CANADA

COMMUNIQUÉ

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

No. 61

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 8, 1967

CANADA - NETHERLANDS AIR SERVICES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, has been officially informed that the Netherlands Government is seeking authority under its constitutional procedures to terminate the Bilateral Air Agreement with Canada. Under the provisions of the Agreement, termination would become effective one year from the date on which notification of termination is given.

The Air Transport Agreement between Canada and the Netherlands was concluded in 1948, and in the view of the Canadian Government has provided a sound basis for development of air services between the two countries. Under the Agreement, the Netherlands airline, KLM, may operate between any point in the Netherlands (including the Netherlands West Indies) and Montreal, while the Canadian airline, CPAL, may operate between any point in Canada and a point in the European territory of the Netherlands.

Commenting on the statement by the Netherlands Government that changes in the pattern of international air traffic since the Agreement was concluded in 1948 have placed the Netherlands airline in an unfavourable competitive position, the Secretary of State for External Affairs observed that KLM has consistently obtained more than equal benefits under the Agreement. The most recent available statistics indicate that KLM is still carrying a somewhat larger proportion of the total passenger

traffic, and a much larger proportion of the total cargo traffic, between Canada and the Netherlands than CPAL. One reason for this is the extensive distribution and feeder route network which KLM has throughout Europe.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs pointed out that the request by the Netherlands Government for access to Toronto for KLM was considered in the light of current Canadian practice, whereby no foreign trans-Atlantic airline operating from Continental Europe has been granted the right to operate to Toronto. The Netherlands Government has been assured that whenever the Canadian Government is in a position to negotiate access to Toronto for any other European trans-Atlantic airline, it will at the same time be prepared to discuss access by KLM. In considering the question of access to Toronto, the Canadian Government must, of course, seek concessions in return which will enable Canadian airlines to expand their operations overseas, so that they will be able to improve the services offered to the Canadian travelling public.

Referring to the friendly and close relations between Canada and the Netherlands, the Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed regret that the Netherlands Government had considered it necessary to initiate procedures with a view to termination of the Air Agreement. He added that if the Netherlands Government wished to have negotiations towards the conclusion of a new Agreement, Canada would be prepared to participate in such negotiations in the spirit of co-operation that has always existed between our two countries. It would, however, be necessary to ensure that any Agreement reached as a result of such negotiations would reflect satisfactorily the interests of Canada as well as of the Netherlands.