

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1963.

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, will represent Canada at a meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, November 19-20. Mr. Martin will be accompanied by senior officials of the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Commerce and the External Aid Office. The Canadian Delegation will also include the Canadian Permanent Representative to the OECD, Mr. J.C. Langley, who is stationed in Paris.

This will be the third annual Ministerial Meeting of the OECD. The Chairman will be Mr. Halvard Lange of Norway. Ministers from the twenty member countries of the Organization will discuss two major themes, viz. economic growth and development in countries of the OECD area and international economic questions of concern to member countries. They will review recent economic progress and the prospects for 1964 in the light of the long-term objective adopted by the OECD in 1961, which aimed at a 50 per cent growth in gross national product in member countries as a group during the present decade. In 1962 the Ministerial Council adopted a resolution on trade and aid, recommending that member governments' efforts to assist the developing countries of the world should include measures in the trade field. At their forthcoming meeting Ministers will review developments in the light of this resolution. Ministers will also discuss the problems of adapting national science as well as agricultural and manpower policies in the light of changing patterns of trade and development. A special OECD Ministerial Meeting on Problems of international cooperation in science was held in October at which the Minister of Industry, the Honourable C. M. Drury, represented Canada.

The OECD is a consultative body. It was established in 1961 to provide a forum for economic cooperation among the countries of North America and Western Europe, succeeding the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), which had been primarily devoted to the promotion of the post-war reconstruction of Europe and the expansion of intra-European trade. The OECD has considerably broader terms of reference than OEEC. It seeks to promote the highest sustainable economic growth and employment in member countries, sound economic expansion of both member and non-member countries and the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis. Through a comprehensive system of OECD committees and working groups covering a wide variety of economic, financial and industrial activities, government officials and in some cases individuals from universities, trade unions and business in the twenty member countries meet to discuss mutual problems in the light of their national experience. The OECD has a permanent Council which meets regularly in Paris to implement the recommendations of the annual Ministerial Council Meetings which are held each November.

Japan has been invited to join the OECD. Japanese membership would considerably broaden the scope of the interests of the Organization.