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STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; ON RETURN FROM
THE MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN PARIS DECEMBER 14 TO 16, 1965.

On his arrival in London today from the NATC Ministerial Meeting in Paris, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Paul Martin, made the following comments:

This was a valuable meeting of the NATO ministers. Decisions will be required in the months ahead on many difficult problems facing the alliance and it is gratifying that there has been a frank exposition of the various national points of view and of the differences which exist among them. There was a universal desire to avoid aggravating these differences but as a result of this meeting each of us knows better what our partners think.

EAST-WEST RELATIONS

This meeting clearly established that NATO governments have an interest that goes beyond defending the NATO area. They are looking to the eventual resolution of the outstanding issues which have divided Europe for so long. Recognizing that recent indications of Soviet attitudes are not encouraging, the members of NATO nevertheless reaffirmed their determination to find common understanding with the USSR and the countries of eastern Europe. This meeting advanced that purpose.

DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION

It was particularly significant that an organization created for defensive purposes should have demonstrated such an active interest in progress towards disarmament. In particular there was a full awareness of the danger of nuclear proliferation in all parts of the world.

NON-NATO AREAS

It has for some time been evident that NATO could not limit itself to a discussion of problems within the treaty area. As on previous occasions there was general discussion of the areas of conflict and tension outside the area of the alliance. Vietnam, Rhodesia and Cyprus all received attention. These situations are naturally of grave concern to the alliance as a whole, even though they do not involve the reciprocal obligations of the members of NATO. It is undoubtedly helpful to those directly involved in the situation to know the views of their partners.

CYPRUS

As one of the main contributors to the UN Force in Cyprus, Canada, as on past occasions, took the opportunity at this meeting to explore the prospects of a settlement. Conversations were held with both the Greek and Turk representatives to this end. To them and in statements in the NATO Council it was emphasized that there should be as broad as possible financial and other support for the UN peacekeeping effort in Cyprus.

NUCLEAR PROBLEMS

NATO will soon have to give particular attention to nuclear problems. There was a useful discussion of studies to be

undertaken on some of the practical aspects of nuclear arrangements. There was a valuable opportunity for Canada to have discussion on these and other problems with ministers from U.S.A., France, Britain and Germany.

FRANCO-CANADIAN RELATIONS

The Minister's presence in Paris enabled him to have discussions with the French Foreign Minister not only on international problems but also on the important range of subjects of bilateral interest. These discussions formed part of the regular exchange of views which have been taking place between France and Canada.

VIETNAM

In London and Paris Mr. Martin explored with the British Foreign Secretary and the U.S.A. Secretary of State the possibilities of progress towards peaceful settlement in Vietnam.

RHODESIA

On Rhodesia, the Minister, in London and at the NATO meeting, gave support to policies designed to restore a legal regime without resort to force.

Canada remains convinced of the value of the NATO Alliance, not only as an assurance of security and as an avenue to peace, but as an essential instrument of partnership among the Atlantic nations.