

PRESS RELEASE



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TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1962.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, announced today that he would leave for Geneva on July 19 to attend the concluding sessions of the International Conference on Laos and the renewed Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference.

It is expected that the final plenary session of the Laos Conference will take place on Saturday, July 21, and that an agreement will be signed on Monday, July 23, by the representatives of the fourteen participating nations. The Conference was convened on May 16, 1961, after renewed fighting has broken out in Laos which threatened peace and security in the Southeast Asian region as a whole. The conclusion of the work of the Conference had been delayed for several months pending the formation of a Laotian Government of national union. The anticipated conclusion of an agreement on the Laotian question is an important and hopeful development in international affairs.

Canada has participated in the Laos Conference because she has been a member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in that country together with India and Poland. The Commission is being given the task of assisting the Royal Government of Laos in the implementation of the Agreement.

During his visit to Geneva, Mr. Green will discuss with other foreign ministers concerned the present state of the negotiations on disarmament. He plans to attend at least one meeting of the Eighteen-Nation Committee, which resumed its work on July 16 after a recess of one month. Mr. Green emphasized the particular importance at this stage -- when governments had had an opportunity to re-examine their respective positions -- of a further effort to reach an accord on those

elements of a treaty on general disarmament where there is already a considerable measure of agreement between the two sides. He also stressed the importance of parallel efforts to reach agreement on measures to increase international confidence, such as the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction in outer space and arrangements to reduce the risk of war by accident. He underlined the urgent need for a new attempt to conclude an effective nuclear test ban agreement.