

French NATO Withdrawal Is Discussed In Commons

By DAVE McINTOSH
OTTAWA (CP)—External Affairs Minister Martin said here today that France's action in withdrawing from NATO militarily may jeopardize the stability of central Europe.

It might also, he said before the Commons external affairs committee:

1. Weaken the political unity of NATO;
2. Stimulate nationalistic tendencies absent in Western Europe since the war;
3. Put bilateral relations between France and some other NATO members under a "great strain";
4. Set back the eventual aim of Western Europe taking on more responsibility for its own defence;
5. Divide the countries of Europe over what their defence policies should be;
6. Alter the balance of forces in Europe.

It was the sharpest criticism of France in years by a member of a Canadian government.

RELATIONS IMMUNE

Mr. Martin said France's decision will not be permitted to impair as far as Canada is concerned, bilateral relations in the political, economic, scientific and cultural fields between Canada and France.

He was sure that France would want to provide some "compensation" for its "unilateral and final" decision that Canada's two bases on French territory must be vacated by April 1, 1967.

Mr. Martin also dealt with Viet Nam and Rhodesia and announced that Canada will forgive India a \$10,000,000 debt owing on two 1956 loans.

He said Canada wants to see the International Truce Supervisory Commission in Viet Nam—Canada, India and Poland are the members—used on "good offices assignment" to unblock the channels of conversation between the parties concerned.

Canada was not urging the commission to call for a new Geneva Conference. The 1954 Geneva meeting ended the 20-year civil war in Indochina and established the commission.

Mr. Martin said such a call would produce no results in the present circumstances. But the commission could pursue "cautiously and discreetly" an attempt to bring about conditions which would allow the parties involved to engage in discussions as a prelude to formal negotiations.

CITES REPLY
Mr. Martin made public

Prime Minister Pearson's Feb. 28 reply to the Jan. 24 letter from President Ho Chi Minh of North Viet Nam.

The letter said in part: "I also hope that the international commission may be able to play some part in helping to restore peace in Viet Nam."

"It seems to me that by virtue of its long association with the problem and the advantage of access it has to all the parties to the present conflict, the commission is in a unique position to play such a part."

"As far as my government is concerned, it is prepared to explore all possibilities that may be open to the commission in present circumstances to exert its efforts in the direction of peace."

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like to see more commission meetings in Hanoi.

There appeared to be "general agreement" in the commission to act on the suggestion, Mr. Martin said. The commission now would perhaps meet as often in Hanoi as in Saigon, WON'T RELENT.

On Rhodesia, Mr. Martin said Canada won't relent in its sanctions against the white-dominated Central African country.

It was important to keep up the economic pressure to make clear to the Rhodesians there will be no slackening of effort.

On France and NATO the minister said Soviet forces in

East Germany are stronger now than at any time since the war.

The need for integrated military command and joint defence planning was undiminished. Central Europe remained an area of potential crises, particularly if arrangements for political stability were upset.

Mr. Martin said any North American move to disengage militarily in Europe would be dangerously premature.

German forces were under NATO command. In any dismantling of NATO, all forces would revert to national command.

MONTAGUE

Cohn McKinnon, Oshawa, Ontario is spending some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George MacKinnon, Brooklyn.

Mrs. Ehan Stewart entertained at a baby shower in honor of Mrs. George Beck. Gifts were wheeled into the room. The guests spent an hour viewing slides of Antigua Isle, West Indies, and British Columbia taken by Mr. Stewart on his recent trip. A lunch was served by Mrs. Stewart assisted by some of the ladies.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Annear, Montague accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent McLean, have

returned from a visit with relatives and friends in Toronto, Ont.

BELIEVER WORKS ALONE

ORANGEVILLE, Ont. (CP)—Dick Hoogendoorn, 57, works alone among 60 men in a metal screen factory because his religion forbids him to pay union dues. A member of the Chris-

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tian Labor Movement, Hoogendoorn says he cannot support with socialism and the New the United Steelworkers of Democratic Party.

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MILK DELIVERIES

There will be no delivery on Good Friday, April 8th, double delivery, Thursday, April 7th, Saturday delivery as usual, April 9th, by the following milk plants.

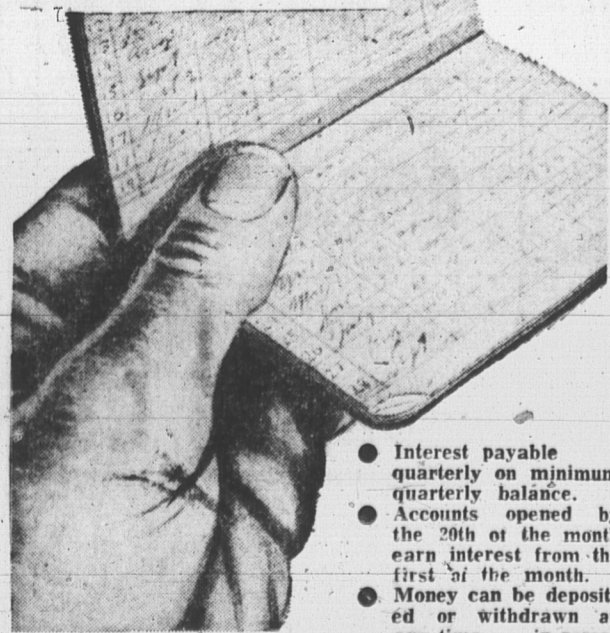
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