

Atlantic Union Advance in French and Canadian Cabinets

Freedom & Union, March, 1966

ATLANTIC FEDERAL UNION has recently made remarkable advances in both the French and Canadian Cabinets. We shall report these fully in our April issue; meanwhile here are highlights:

France: President de Gaulle's new Cabinet includes two Atlantic Unionists of long standing, both in key posts. General Pierre Billotte, co-founder chairman of the International Movement for Atlantic Union (IMAU), is one of the three Ministers of State—a title that outranks all Cabinet Members except the Prime Minister. Because the French Constitution does not permit any Minister to remain in any private organization while in office, he has asked a "leave of absence" from his IMAU office, and received it.

Michel Debre, vice president of the French Atlantic Union Committee when he became the first Gaullist Prime Minister in 1959, has returned to the Cabinet to combine three of its most important ministries—Finance, Economic and Social Affairs. Andre Bettencourt, member of the IMAU Advisory Council, is also in the present Cabinet as Secretary of State for Transportation. This does not mean that President de Gaulle has come round to Atlantic Federation; it does mean that its friends are in much stronger position to advance it—especially if Washington approves the Atlantic Union resolution—and that being a known Atlantic Unionist doesn't hurt, men in the General's esteem.

Canada: Paul T. Hellyer, Canadian Minister of Defense, has joined the IMAU Advisory Council. This makes seven members of that Cabinet in the Movement's Councils—an act which involves commitment to Atlantic Union as the goal. Its Honorary Council includes Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson; its Advisory Council already included Foreign Minister Paul Martin, Finance Minister Mitchell Sharp, Industry and Defense Production Minister Charles W. Drury, Secretary of State Judy LaMarsh, and the President of the Privy Council, Guy Favreau.

Hugh Faulkner, M. P. (Liberal), has introduced in the Ottawa House of Commons the following Motion (No.51), obviously inspired in part by the Atlantic Union resolution now before Congress:

"That in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the expediency of introducing legislation to create a delegation, to meet with similar delegations from such of our North Atlantic Treaty allies as desire to join in this enterprise, to explore the possibility of agreement to the end that national sovereignty would be pooled in fields of essential common interest, including foreign policy, defense, economic relations and aid

for under-developed countries."