

the Atlantic relationship and as a re-affirmation of an outward looking American foreign policy.

It was also, I believe, a means by which one great power acknowledged the coming of age of another great power.

Although there were some mixed reactions in Europe to the initiative, I believe that the nine were very pleased to have demonstrated to the world and to themselves their capacity to agree on a collective response to the "Year of Europe" message. Certainly, this was the impression that several foreign Ministers of the nine gave me when I spoke to them in New York in September.

There were, of course, some questions about the implications of the "Year of Europe". One of the first questions many of us asked about the Year of Europe was -- how would the interests