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Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Community

The following passages are from an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, to the German-Canadian Business and Professional Associates in Toronto last month:

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In a word, Canadian-German relations are "burgeoning". Ten years ago, trade between Canada and the Federal Republic amounted to about \$315 million. At last count the figures were approaching \$1 billion annually. Over the ten-year period, this is an increase of 160 per cent. Over the past year, there has been an increase in both directions of 25 per cent. Germany has become our fourth largest trading partner. These are impressive figures and I am sure that in large measure, they reflect the vision and hard work of many members of the German-Canadian business and professional community.

However, left as they are, these figures do not tell the whole story. There is, in fact, an imbalance. While our exports to the Federal Republic have been increasing they have not kept pace with the volume of imports from that country. For our part the Government is trying to reduce this imbalance by encouraging increased sales to the Federal Republic, not only of raw or semi-processed material but also of a range of manufactured and processed goods. In a free society this is a co-operative enterprise and further success will depend to a great extent on the support and initiative of Canadian business.

Many common interests

Trade is, of course, only one aspect of Canadian relations with the Federal Republic. Other common interests are reflected in agreements on science and technology, defence research and production, social security and in a proposed agreement on cultural co-operation. An agreement on bilateral consultations, on matters of common concern, was signed by Herr Scheel and myself this last September. In science and technology alone the results have been very satisfying to both sides. Industrial co-operation is already taking place in marine tech-

nology and there are prospects of useful collaboration in communications satellites.

With the Federal Republic, as with Europe as a whole, our relations have never been exclusively nor are even primarily, based on trade. History, common values, and for many of us, common European origins are the source of continued and potent links.

Canada's changed attitude

The links are strong, but the relationship is not static. The problems and perspectives of the European Community are subject to change. Canada's approach to the Community, particularly under the Diefenbaker administration, was not always enthusiastic. But when the administration of which I was and am a member took office and as the Community itself developed - as its institutions and its outlook expanded, there has been a responsive evolution in the Canadian attitude - the attitude of the people of Canada as well as its Government - toward the Community.

The Canadian attitude has also been shaped by recognition of the world stature of the European Community. The development of the nine is not simply a matter of new institutional arrangements in Europe. Despite inevitable disagreements and internal abrasions evident, as you know, at the Energy Conference I attended in Washington this week, it also represents a growth of real power - self confidence and influence which has significantly altered the pattern of world economic relationships.

The European Community is the second largest of our trading partners - and we are confident that the volume of trade between Canada and the Community will continue to grow.

In another very practical way, an expanding relation with Europe is an essential feature of one of the Govern-