

mutual interest, such an agreement, of itself and by itself, apart from anything else, is valuable and worth having in terms of our narrower bilateral relations -- that is, Canada and the Communities (leaving to one side, for the moment, our bilateral relations with individual member states)?

There is also the point that the Community is an important entity in international affairs; its decision, the course that it intends to follow, is of considerable importance to us. For instance, the Community, like Japan, like the U.S., is a major participant in trade negotiations in Geneva. Similarly, the Community position in the North-South dialogue is a factor of obvious and considerable significance as to the outcome of the process. It is, therefore, again of importance to us that we should have access to the Communities and that we should have opportunities to discuss beforehand the courses we and the Communities intend to take in these as in many other international organizations dealing with matters, which, after all, are to us of bread-and-butter interest on an everyday basis. The contractual link commits the Community and ourselves to consultation, to keeping in close touch so that we can operate in such a way that we shall avoid whenever possible conflicts and that we can, it is to be hoped, concert our action to our mutual advantage. This is also a plus for the contractual link.

Apart from trade and aid, the Communities are also, in matters within their jurisdiction, a substantial entity in such fields, for instance, as East-West relations or foreign affairs more generally. We have again an interest in finding out what the Communities are doing and in concerting our action with them. The point, it seems to me, is obvious. It is important, and its application can be seen in many areas that now or later will fall within the jurisdiction of the Communities. This is an area of growing importance, where the Community is successfully and systematically developing comprehensive and co-ordinated policies.

To illustrate this, I can mention the efforts that have just now been made by the Communities to put together a Mediterranean policy. The Communities have concluded agreements with the Maghreb countries, as well as with Israel, and now with the Mashrak countries -- that is, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The Communities, in the same area, are negotiating with Greece concerning its possible entry into the Communities and pursuing complementary, if difficult, negotiations, with Turkey, which is also an associate state. These dealings between the Communities and these various states in the Mediterranean area call for financial assistance, for trade privileges or special trading arrangements and for

---