

cooperation on issues such as transportation and communications, energy, the environment, and migration. Consistent with the norms of the GATT and the European Community and aimed toward full integration with them, any new structure of this kind must ensure that it is seen as the way out of the old isolation of these economies; it must in no way perpetuate their isolation. An idea has been privately proposed in Canada to help meet this need for an acceptable regional economic framework — as well as for a clearing-house on economic policies and technical assistance that would make a Marshall Plan type of programme possible. This proposal calls for the replication (with the help of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) of a twin organization to play the kind of role that OECD's own predecessor organization, the OEEC played in the post-war recovery in western Europe.

The “twinning” of an existing organization, with a relevant mandate, structure and expertise for these tasks, has a natural appeal, increased by the fact that all the established market economies, including Japan, are members. Japan is too rarely a full participant in the dialogues with the new democracies, although Japanese participation is universally recognized as essential to any serious reconstruction effort. The use of a framework like the OECD could also defuse the unhelpful competitive atmosphere between the European Community and the US as well as the possible sensitivities of the “recipient” countries. This is because the OECD model is already established and respected as a “mediator”, providing the coordination and sometimes tough advice which governments have difficulty applying.

It is possible that there are compelling arguments against trying to use an OECD-related framework, or that one based on another existing organization (like the Group of 24, the EBRD, or the European Community) might be entrusted with these expanded tasks and coordinating functions. What is unmistakably clear is that the conditions which will make a dramatic reconstruction possible are not yet being fulfilled, and the West is fiddling (and western institutions jockeying and jostling) while eastern Europe has already begun to burn.

If the West “won” the Cold War, it was not in order to leave its first victims, the peoples of the Soviet empire, abandoned and hopeless at the very time when they seek to embrace western values and prosperity. The enterprise of helping re-build the former Communist world is an even greater common obligation and mission for the western world than was the re-building of western Europe through the Marshall Plan. It may also