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UPI Photo

Prime Minister Trudeau enjoys an after-lunch walk down rue Varennes with French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. During the visit Mr. Trudeau also met with Presidentiscard d'Estaing before proceeding from Paris to Brussels.

primary objective of these contacts was to strengthen our ties with Western Europe, and particularly with the European Communities, with which we hope to negotiate a form of agreement or contractual link that will provide a framework for trade and economic co-operation and a solid basis for a more sustained dialogue. While the precise form of such an agreement has not yet been worked out, the Prime Minister is assured of our European partners' agreement with the objective of the Canadian initiative in terms of defining future relations between Canada and the Community on the basis of mutual interest and recognition of the dynamic development of the Community. It was in this spirit that the Prime Minister presented Canada's submission to the Commission of the European Communities, explaining that we had initially proposed the conclusion of a trade agreement as one of a number of possibilities but that, if the Commission had other ideas, we were prepared to look at them. President Ortoli, Vice-President Ortoli and the other Commissioners were sympathetic toward our initiative and showed willingness to get things moving to explore all possibilities. Thus it was agreed that a new negotiating phase should be opened, beginning with exploratory talks

for the purpose of defining the form of a possible contractual arrangement. This in itself was a noteworthy success for Canada if we consider the difficulties of the undertaking, stemming from the complexity of the Community structures, the fear of some members of creating a precedent that might be exploited by other highly-industrialized countries, and the hesitation of others to deal with questions lying outside the present competence of the Community. Thus, in Brussels as in Paris, and in dealing with the Commission and other governmental authorities, there is reason to believe that the Prime Minister succeeded in making his hosts more aware than before of the specific nature of Canadian interests and Canada's position that distinguishes them from those of the United States. Against this background, it is a matter of satisfaction that the Community has decided to open a permanent mission in Ottawa in 1975, similar to the ones it maintains in Washington and Tokyo.

NATO visit

The Prime Minister's visit to NATO placed the highest possible importance on Canada's role in Europe by demonstrating that the current diversification of our external relations includes a continuing commit-