

Europe – the change of régimes in Spain, Portugal and Greece, Eurocommunism – endow certain European countries with new international importance and thus a new significance to Canada's bilateral relations with them.

A good example

Denmark is a good example of this trend, as was shown by the visit of Prime Minister Jørgensen to Ottawa in December 1977. This was the first official visit in 30 years of diplomatic relations by the head of the government of a country that is, after the United States, Canada's nearest neighbour, by virtue of its territory of Greenland. This visit had been preceded by that of Prime Minister Trudeau to Copenhagen in May 1975. The two visits should not only be considered as a new stage in relations between Canada and Denmark but also as examples of a more general trend in Canadian diplomacy in Europe. It is, therefore, instructive to analyze the relation with Denmark from this point of view.

Denmark is a small country, with a population of five million, with which Canada has traditionally had only limited bilateral relations at both the official and the private levels. Until recently, links between the two countries have developed mainly within multilateral organizations, particularly NATO and the United Nations, where they were cordial and close. The mutual interest of the two countries was, therefore, primarily due to their common strategic aims and to the fact that they intended to pursue these within a framework of collective security.

This general characteristic of Canada-Denmark relations is still evident, but two other factors must henceforth be added that are complementary and dependent one on the other: each country's European policy (Denmark's entry into the Common Market, Canada's contractual link) and the development of their bilateral relations through the problems of the Arctic. In a way, Europe and the Arctic have become for both the focal-point round which their bilateral relations have been revitalized, since policies in one sector can help to strengthen policies in another. For Canada, the joint aims it will be increasingly led to pursue with Denmark in the Arctic help to consolidate and widen the scope of its European policies. For Denmark, the closeness of Canada's links with the European Economic Community is a pledge of its co-operation in solving the problems of the Arctic, to which it attaches great importance. For this reason, Denmark was the first EEC member to support Canada's proposal for a contractual link (though it did express last-minute

reservations of a tactical nature).

A new form of interdependence has thus been established between the two countries, which would not have been possible without a certain number of more general socio-political points of common interest that define the relative but specific importance of Denmark in Canada's diplomacy. For instance, the two countries share a similar tradition of constitutional monarchy, and both are strongly attached to democratic institutions and values. In several social and technical areas, Denmark practises progressive and innovative policies of interest to the Federal Government, the provinces, and various groups – as is proved both by the numerous and constant visits of Canadian specialists to Denmark and by the various subjects discussed by Messrs Trudeau and Jørgensen during the latter's recent visit to Ottawa. Furthermore, Denmark has long been open to Anglo-Saxon cultural influences, especially that of Britain – with which it has, like Canada, always maintained special links – and more recently with the U.S. No doubt this accounts for certain types of political behaviour, such as pragmatism and a tendency towards compromise, that have enabled Canada and Denmark to communicate and co-operate easily on numerous occasions.

But it is Denmark's foreign policy that is of particular interest to Canada. Like the latter, Denmark has been deeply involved in international affairs since 1945, and – again like Canada – after a long period of isolation. An active member of the UN, which is one of the mainstays of its foreign policy (as it is for Canada), a fellow member of the Atlantic Alliance, the Nordic Council and, more recently, the EEC, Denmark shares with Canada the need to compensate for its relative weakness by an active role in multilateral organizations that will give it the opportunity to intervene on any question that, by imperilling international security, threatens the freedom of economic exchange on which its prosperity depends. Moreover, like Canada in its relations with the United States, Denmark is subject to the financial and commercial influence of a powerful neighbour and ally – in this case the Federal Republic of Germany. This situation has certainly helped the Danish Government to understand Canada's "Third Option" policy, and so the contractual link. With regard to defence, Denmark, like Canada, has been obliged to review its contribution to NATO and to cut its military spending. Finally, whether discussion centres on the violation of human rights, the "North-South Dialogue", security in Europe or decolonization, Denmark adopts a liberal position very similar to the

*General trend
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