

Europe is the other principal centre of gravity with which Canada hopes to strengthen relations. A concerted effort is being made to develop relations with the member countries of the Community and also with the Community as a distinct entity. Since 1972 there have been many exchanges at all levels between Canada, the Community and its member countries. These culminated in the visit of Prime Minister Trudeau to Paris and Brussels in October 1974. He will be returning to other European capitals in March of this year. One objective is to broaden and deepen our bilateral relations in as many fields as possible with these countries. Another objective is to negotiate some form of a contractual link between Canada and the Community. For our part, such an arrangement would constitute recognition of Canada as a distinct political, economic and social entity in North America. Links with the Community having a potential for development would help greatly to meet our objective of diversifying our involvement abroad.

But, having said all this, I must insist on one central point: our efforts to diversify our relations mean that we seek not to supplant but to supplement relations with the United States. Indeed, it is obvious that relations with the United States will remain the most important that this country possesses. Our purpose is to strengthen Canada in order to create a more balanced, a more reciprocal and thus a healthier relationship between two independent partners.

What we have witnessed since the early seventies has been the ending of one era and the beginning of a new period in Canada-United States relations. This change involved the ending of the "special relationship" between Canada and the United States. What are the factors that produced this change and what are the distinguishing characteristics of these two phases in Canada-United States relations?

The earlier period began with the Second World War and continued to the early seventies. It saw the United States and Canada thrust to the forefront of the world stage - the former as the leader of the West and the latter as an important military and political ally and economic power. This was a period of close political and military cooperation, and increasing