

and his delegation of the European parliamentarians. It is my hope that exchanges of this nature will be seen in a wide context -- as a part of that dialogue between Canada and the Community which was called for in the communiqué following the European Community summit meeting last October.

For reasons related as much to the evolution of the European Community itself as to immediate Canadian interests, the Conference is devoting its attention, in large part, to economic issues -- to questions of trade, industry, agriculture and energy. At the same time, and at the risk of stating the obvious, it is necessary to recall that Canada's relations with Europe have never been, nor are exclusively -- or even primarily based on trade. History, common values, for many of us, common European origins and

the sentiment deriving from these factors are the source of continuing and potent links with Western Europe.

The relationship, then, is strong and firmly