

to industrial co-operation in particular. In short, while government will take as active a role as it can, given our economic system, it is clear that much will depend on the private sector. In particular, it will depend on the readiness of the private sector to respond to what I would call "catalytic action" on the part of government. That is, business must be ready to seize the opportunities that emerge from a process in which they will, of course, have been closely involved.

On the Canadian side, we are also very much aware that effective implementation of the agreement will often require the involvement and co-operation of our provincial governments. This is something we shall want to ensure and we shall, of course, make appropriate arrangements to associate our provincial authorities in the process of implementation. Our provinces, I am pleased to say, have expressed keen interest in and support for Federal Government initiatives in Europe. This applies particularly to what is envisaged under the Canada-Community agreement.

The proposed work program for the Joint Committee that officials will consider later seems to provide a well-blended menu. I am aware that some useful preliminary work has already begun in areas such as non-ferrous metals and forest products, and that there have been exchanges of missions between us in these sectors. These are of obvious interest to both sides, as, indeed, are other proposed items such as co-operation involving the telecommunications, construction and nuclear-uranium industries. As a Canadian from a region where the fisheries industry is a vital part of the economy, I am naturally happy, as well as intrigued, that the possibility of fisheries co-operation will also be explored, and I look forward to learning of what opportunities may exist for commercial and economic co-operation in this field.

In setting in motion whatever work program is agreed upon today, it is my hope that the Committee will apply the tests of pragmatism and realism to its deliberations. Neither side has suggested at any time that the agreement would be some kind of panacea, that it could transform our economic relation overnight, but we must guard against over-optimism without lessening our determination to succeed. I share your view, therefore, that, in the first year or so, the efforts of the Committee should be directed primarily towards a limited number of areas. This will by no means reduce the effort required of those involved, and that should not be underestimated. But, if it is well directed, the work of the first two years will put in place the most important building-block and permit us to move pragmatically from what may well be modest beginnings to more ambitious forms of co-operation. If we proceed in this way, I am confident that there will

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