

Food Conference must place its main emphasis on the building of agricultural productivity in the developing countries.

The role and the financing of future food aid will also have to be re-examined in the light of rising commodity prices and short supply. We shall have to aim at greater coordination of food stocks on the international plane which would encourage growth of these stocks outside the food-exporting countries.

Diversification of Canada's Relations

Last year I spoke at some length of the three broad directions which were open to us in the balance of our relations between the United States and other countries. I said that the Government had opted for a long term strategy to develop and strengthen the Canadian economy and other aspects of our national life, and in the process, to reduce the present Canadian vulnerability.

This process of diversifying our foreign relations has continued in the last year, both across the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Western Europe

The Government welcomes the fact that the "constructive dialogue" promised Canada by the nine members of the European Community at the Paris Summit meeting of October 1972 has now entered what might be called its creative phase. The most important development in recent months has been the invitation of the Nine to Canada to make its views known on how its relations with them might be collectively defined. This invitation did not just happen. It is a result of our increased efforts over the past several years to add to the substance of Canada/West Europe relations and to create a greater awareness among our European partners, of Canada's specific and distinct personality, as well as of its problems and aspirations as a North American country with uniquely close relations with Europe.

Canada's response to the Nine's invitation, which I hope to have completed before long, will be in line with the Government's policy of diversification. The Government is very much intent on achieving, as a priority objective, stronger and more dynamic ties with the Community as a collective entity, and with each and every one of its member states.

The emergence of a strong, united and friendly European Community corresponds to the fundamental interests of Canada. As the Nine and the USA are our two major allies and trading partners, it is of vital importance to Canada that there should be the widest possible measure of cooperation and understanding with them and also, I must say, between them. I have no illusions about the difficulties of such an ambitious endeavour as the harmonizing of relations between two major entities like the USA and the European Community in periods of peace and prosperity. For its part Canada's stake in the success of this endeavour is considerable. It is an important prerequisite for our security and continued well-being.

We have for some years regarded our NATO membership as going well beyond a concern for some narrow definition of security. We see the organization as an indispensable forum for the common pursuit of political aims of détente and the harmonization of views on a whole range of issues. NATO has never been more