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CANADA AND THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - II

An Address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, to the Union of Foreign Journalists in Belgium, Brussels, December 1, 1970.

I consider it an honour for me and for my country that I have been invited to address the first luncheon meeting of this group. It is also a great pleasure and a rare opportunity. The real purpose for my being here today is to answer your questions and exchange views with you, but first of all there are a few points I should like to make, very briefly.

In the course of my trip to Europe, I have visited London, and early next week I go to The Hague. The purpose of my visits to the British, Belgian and Dutch Governments and the Communities is to discuss the prospective enlargement of the Common Market by the entry of Britain and other EFTA countries and the effects this significant development of the Community might have on Canadian links with Europe in the field of trade and the impact this change may have on international relations. At the beginning of last week in Ottawa, I met with leading members of the U. S. Administration, led by Secretary Pogers, and discussed the same general range of topics with them.

The timing of my visits to Europe was determined by the NATO ministerial meeting which starts here tomorrow, so I should like, first of all, to say something about Canada and NATO. Canada has just completed a fundamental review of foreign policy, begun over two years ago. One of the questions that had to be faced and settled early in the review was our membership in NATO and related questions of force contribution in Europe. The result was that Canada is -- and will remain -- a fully-committed member of the North Atlantic alliance. Canada's security is inextricably bound up with Europe's, and Canada will continue to play its part in European security arrangements. These decisions were taken after exhaustive examination of factors and trends in Europe, attitudes in Canada and alternatives ranging from disengagement from current world power relations to increased involvement in collective security arrangements. Few, if any, NATO countries have subjected their membership in NATO to so thoroughgoing a study. That Canada has done so, and determined that Canadian interests call for continued membership and continued military