

Canadian interest in the attitude the Community will take to its responsibilities to the world community is, of course, natural. Canada, perhaps more than any of the other industrialized nations, is dependent on an increasingly free and open world order, particularly in the economic and trade spheres. It is clear that we have a "vested interest" in the increasing liberalization of conditions of trade throughout the world. It is highly important to us that bloc confrontations, about which there has been some recent concern, be avoided. The importance of a generally outward-looking world view from the European Community cannot be underestimated. In any confrontation between economic giants such as the enlarged Community, the United States and Japan, we should all stand to lose — Canada more than most.

Our reasons for seeking to maintain and broaden our dialogue with the Community are clear — and, in our terms, imperative. Our objective has been to seek with the Community a long-term agreement that would cover the broad range of Canadian/European Community relations and would complement existing trade arrangements such as those under the aegis of GATT. Such an agreement, which would provide for regular consultations, might range much more widely, to cover fields such as energy, natural resources, investment, industrial co-operation and environment. We realize that the establishment of such a long-term arrangement may not be immediately realizable. Nevertheless we continue to seek to establish a basis upon which such an arrangement can ultimately be made.

The political role of the Community, particularly in relation to North America, has been stimulated by the American initiative of a "Year of Europe". It seems to me that this initiative was designed to serve a number of useful and timely purposes — to redefine and revitalize the Atlantic relationship and as a reaffirmation of an outward-looking American foreign policy. It was also, I believe, a means by which one great power acknowledged the coming of age of another great power.

Although there were some mixed reactions in Europe to the initiative, I believe that the Nine were very pleased to have demonstrated to the world and to themselves their capacity to agree on a collective response to the "Year-of-Europe" message. Certainly, this was the impression that several foreign ministers of the Nine gave me when I spoke to them in New York in September.

There were, of course, some questions about the implications of the "Year of Europe". One of the first questions many of us asked about the "Year of Europe" was — how would the interests of the