



*Jacques-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission of the European Communities, is shown here at the press conference held at the end of his visit to Canada earlier this year during which he formally opened the office of the Commission in Ottawa. While in Ottawa, Mr. Ortoli met with the Prime Minister and attended a round-table discussion chaired by Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen and attended by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Minister of Agriculture. He is shown here at the press conference held at the end of his visit.*

Under the precedent for that in the large Community Affairs, office in Washington. With subsequent June 1974 dialogue, the mission has become fully a special diplomatic and, in fact, opened towards not known arrangements at the end of 1975.

Without fanfare, various proposals were debated after the Dupuy mission. A referential trade agreement, one that would discriminate against the United States and other trading partners, was never considered. Canada actually submitted a draft of a bland agreement that stated the most-favoured-nation (MFN) provisions both Canada and The Nine already subscribed to under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). This text would become meaningful only if the GATT crumbled.

This is the agreement described by Mr. MacEachen in his last report on the subject on October 22, 1974, to the Commissions Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. However, that instrument became passé when Prime Minister Trudeau went to Brussels soon afterwards and agreed with the Europeans that it did not accomplish much.

The winter of 1974 became the gestation period for the new, improved model that the Prime Minister was able to define when he completed his second visit to Europe, in March 1975. No general agreement was possible, he told a London au-

dience, owing to the uncertainty of the pace of European integration: "What can be done is to create a mechanism that will provide the means (i.e. the 'Link') and the obligation (i.e. 'Contractual') to consult and confer, and to do so with materials sufficiently pliable and elastic to permit the mechanism to adapt in future years to accommodate whatever jurisdiction the European Community from time to time assumes."

The parties have since agreed to dress up an agreement providing for economic and commercial co-operation in the broad sense of sketching objectives and intentions rather than making any immediate undertakings. Thus, one of the articles under consideration would provide the framework for joint co-operation in discovery, extraction, processing and marketing of energy and other raw materials and resources. That provision alone could mean much or little, depending on a whole range of factors.

Some form of restatement of MFN principles from the GATT is taken for granted. Also probable are provisions for information and technology exchanges, joint industrial ventures, and trade and information missions.

The negotiators are also working on the actual machinery of consultation. The final document will probably contain an

*Statement of objectives and intentions rather than undertakings*