

Given the possibilities, the Government must determine whether deliberate pursuit of such associations with Europe would contribute significantly toward the major Canadian objectives of maintaining independence and a distinct identity. It is clear that in the absence of conscious effort most scientific and technological activities in Canada will remain largely oriented toward the United States, in keeping with the dominant north-south axis of the economic relationships between the two countries. It is also clear that, the more the European countries combine their efforts, the more opportunities there will be for Canada to find rewarding forms of co-operation with them. It is not realistic to imagine that the present trends could be changed 90 degrees in direction, even if it were deemed desirable to make the attempt, but there would be much merit in seeking to develop at least some measure of countervailing influence.

In future, the task may prove somewhat less difficult because of the realization in most advanced countries that rapid economic growth of itself can no longer continue, in today's complex conditions, as the principal preoccupation and priority of governments. The Canadian Government, in pursuing basic national aims, aspires to the attainment of other objectives, no less important to national well-being—an improved human environment, a higher quality of life for all Canadians, a distinctive contribution to world betterment. In the pursuit of such objectives, Canada will not overlook opportunities as they arise for participating in productive relationships with the European countries in those areas where science and technology can be brought to interact with economic planning so as to promote the improvement of the human environment rather than its deterioration. Thus the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, the OECD, the Economic Commission for Europe, and the possibilities for new arrangements for co-operating in outer space all present openings now for Canadian foreign policy initiatives which can have advantages for both Europe and Canada.

Culture, Communication and other Exchanges

In the field of cultural relations and the exchange of people and ideas more generally, most contacts take place between individuals or groups, autonomous or semi-autonomous agencies, supported in some cases by government funds. A special case is the matter of parliamentary exchanges with Europe, in which the Senate and the House of Commons are becoming increasingly active, both bilaterally and multilaterally (the Council of Europe is particularly important in this context). For the most part,