

administration, was not always enthusiastic. But when the administration of which I was and am a member took office and as the Community itself developed-- as its institutions and its outlook expanded, there has been a responsive evolution in the Canadian attitude--the attitude of the people of Canada as well as its government--toward the Community.

The Canadian attitude has also been shaped by recognition of the world stature of the European Community. The development of the nine is not simply a matter of new institutional arrangements in Europe. Despite inevitable disagreements and internal abrasions evident, as you know, at the Energy Conference I attended in Washington this week, it also represents a growth of real power--self confidence and influence which has significantly altered the pattern of world economic relationships.

The European Community is the second largest of our trading partners-- and we are confident that the volume of trade between Canada and the Community will continue to grow.

In another very practical way, an expanding relationship with Europe is an essential feature of one of the Government's most fundamental policies. This is the policy to diversify--to reduce the vulnerability of the Canadian economy to one continental market--to maintain our freedom of action in the international scene--and equally important to preserve and nourish our individuality.

At the same time, let me be clear in stating that we were not thinking in terms of substituting Europe for the United States as a trading partner. We are North Americans and the United States, of course, remains our most important partner.

But the mere acknowledgement of this fact does not lead us to accept the constraints of any so-called continental determinism. We believe we can multiply our exchanges with other countries, particularly in Europe, with a view to promoting the cultural life and economic prosperity of Canadians without loosening in the process our vigorous ties with our Southern neighbours.

In relative terms our relationship with Europe is more important to us than the United States' relationship with Europe is to the Americans. Forty-two percent of our immigration continues to come from Europe. Our national fabric is composed of distinctive ethnic groups--most of them European. These have not been assimilated into a Canadian homogeneity. As in this organization, they preserve and value their links with Europe as they do their Canadian nationality.

Security is another bond. Canada's security is indivisible from that of Europe. That is why we are members of NATO. We do not have troops in Europe (in fact in the Federal Republic) solely for the purpose of defending Europe, but to defend Canadians. A strong and independent Western Europe is vital to the independence of Canada. Complementary to our NATO purposes is our agreement with the Federal Republic for the training of battalion-size groups of German forces on the Canadian Forces Bases at Shilo, Manitoba.

Canadian interest in the attitude which 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