

## Arctic community

# Growth in bilateral relations between Canada and Denmark

By Paul Painchaud

Until the Second World War, and for the next 20 years, Canada's European policy revolved round two main poles: Britain, on the one hand, and the multilateral organizations, on the other - Britain, because of strategic and economic links built up within an Empire that had only partly become a Commonwealth whose transformations were to force involvement of Canadian foreign policy in international problems on a global scale, and multilateral organizations such as the League of Nations, whose mission, in Canada's eyes, was largely European, and others that were to succeed it from the standpoint of regional security (such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) or economic co-operation (such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). In reality, this dual concentration, on a single country and on functional organizations, prevented the development of a real regional policy towards Western Europe - in other words, an integrated and systematic set of objectives comprehending the main areas of government activity in this part of the world. It took the Third Option to render such a policy theoretically possible.

It is general knowledge that the most tangible expression of this policy was the "contractual link" with the European Communities. What is less well known, however - or, rather, what has been less noted - is the parallel intensification of Canada's bilateral relations with various countries of Western Europe - relations that had previously been, if not neglected, at least conducted on an often formal and routine level. This statement must, of course, be qualified, depending on the countries and postwar periods concerned. On the whole, however, it does not seem an exaggeration so far as most European countries are concerned.

But the Third Option and the contractual link were to place greater emphasis on the value for Canada of bilateral relations. The latter, in particular, prompted Canada to seek direct influence on the different members of the Community because of its structures and decision-making

mechanisms. Furthermore, greater interdependence between Canada and each member of The Nine certainly has an emulative effect with regard to the Community itself. Finally, the increasingly close relations that unite all the countries of Western Europe, in different fields, must lead Canada to develop its relations with those states that do not belong to the Community. Canada's recent interest in the Council of Europe is proof of this tendency.

### Parallel diplomacy

It should also be added that several European governments themselves insist on maintaining a diplomacy parallel to that of the Community in their relations with various countries. This often results in greater efficiency in areas such as industrial co-operation, one of the main instruments of the Third Option, and is even true for the cultural sphere. Indeed, the maintenance of Canada's ethnic diversity, viewed as a check on American influence, can only be achieved by increasing as much as possible bilateral exchanges with the countries of origin - mostly European - of Canada's various ethnic groups. This goal is, in fact, very clear in the light of the priorities of the five-year cultural-activities plan of the Department of External Affairs.

Apart from all these reasons, there are also structural pressures that dictate a widening of bilateral relations with European states. New world-wide problems - the New International Economic Order, the law of the sea, the evolution in Soviet strategy - lead to greater political co-operation between industrial democracies. Moreover, the very transformations in Western

*Greater efficiency in industrial co-operation*

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