

sification of our international relations, not with a view to diminishing our relations with the United States but rather to complementing them with more substantial relations elsewhere. In particular, Canada has been making a concerted effort to broaden and deepen its relations with Europe. Moreover, we believe it is in the interest of Europe to have more than one active partner in North America.

It is not, of course, open to Canada to participate directly in the great historic enterprise of building a united Europe. We are, though, watching Europe's efforts with deep interest and sympathy. We wish you well and we are confident that Europe will demonstrate its ability to overcome its difficulties for the common good. It is in that conviction that we are pursuing our objective of establishing a "contractual link" with the European Community. The negotiation of a framework agreement is making good progress, and we are grateful for the consistent and helpful support we have received from the Federal Republic of Germany.

But Canada does not see its future relations with Europe exclusively in terms of the Canada/Community link. We intend to continue developing our bilateral relations with the member countries of the Community in a parallel and mutually-reinforcing way. In this context, Canada attaches a high priority to its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. This relationship is marked by programs of co-operation developed under intergovernmental agreements in areas such as cultural relations, and science and technology. It is also reflected in significant and growing trade, investment and industrial co-operation, as well as increasingly close co-operation in the defence field.

The presence of Canadian land and air forces stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany, whom I shall be visiting tomorrow, and of German land forces training in Canada, contributes both to the common defence and to our bilateral understanding. Several months ago, the Canadian Government decided, after a thorough review of the Canadian defence program, to maintain the numerical strength of our forces in this country and to improve their operational capability. As you know, we are now in discussion with the Federal German authorities about the acquisition of a new main-battle tank for these forces.

Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany are partners not only in Western defence but also in the East/West dialogue, where we aim to draw the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe into a more civilized, open and constructive relation with the West. Indeed, we are both deeply convinced that defence and *détente* must go

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