

Mr. Chairman,

May I begin by congratulating the CIIA for its initiative and imagination in sponsoring this Conference on Canada and the European Community. The CIIA and the Government do not always speak with one voice on foreign policy -- surprising as that may be considering the perceptiveness of so many of the CIIA members. But we certainly agree on the fundamental importance of this subject for Canada now. We are indebted to the CIIA for the focus which it is giving to the European Community -- and for the timeliness of this Conference which coincides so neatly and usefully with the official visits to Ottawa of Sir Christopher Soames