

ment lairs where it is languishing. In short, Canadian-European relations must become political issues; the press must take up the cry, the provinces — particularly the Atlantic Provinces — must make it one of their demands, and the business world must begin to covet European trade. This market of almost 300 million people is well worth the effort.

And, in the process, let Canadians not

be afraid to focus criticism on the departments mainly responsible for Canada's European policy — External and Industry, Trade and Commerce. In any bureaucracy, these departments are somewhat masochistic; they pick up criticism unless they are criticized. In any case, they are thick-skinned enough to absorb blows — and strong enough to deal with them in return.

Canada's relationship with Europe.

... Canada's relationship with Europe is not the same as the United States' relationship with Europe. There are political, economic, cultural and linguistic elements in our relationship with Europe that are unique.

Perhaps, in relative terms, our relationship is more important to us than the United States' relationship with Europe is to the Americans. Forty-two per cent of our immigration continues to come from Europe. Our national fabric is made up of distinctive ethnic groups — many of them European. These have not been assimilated into a Canadian homogeneity. They preserve and value their links with Europe as they do their Canadian nationality.

Canada's security is indivisible from that of Europe. That is why we are members of NATO. We do not have troops in Europe solely for the purpose of defending Europe, but to defend Canadians.

Dialogue heightened

However, by focusing on the need to revitalize and redefine the Atlantic Community, the 'Year-of-Europe' initiative has quickened the pace of development of Community policy toward the rest of the world.

This heightened Atlantic dialogue is leading Canada, the Community and the United States into a greater and deeper exploration of our shared problems and aspirations. The pursuit of this dialogue reaches beyond the economic sphere to

encompass all aspects of international relations.

I believe that a serious and comprehensive examination of the Atlantic Community, an effort to make the relationship more responsive to realities, can be beneficial to all concerned.

Canada's goal

In this context, the suggestion of a Canada/European Community declaration is attractive. But the determining factor should be substance, not form.

Canada is seeking opportunities to develop a dynamic, meaningful and distinctive long-term relationship with the European Community. If it is clear that such a declaration can contribute to an objective, we shall be ready to participate in its elaboration.

With or without a declaration, the future evolution of the transatlantic relationship will be of interest to Canada. I am confident that common interests and common sense will prevail. (Excerpt from the *Concurrence on Canada and the European Community, in Ottawa on November 2, 1973. The conference was sponsored by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, in co-operation with the External Affairs Department and the Commission of the European Community*).