



CANADA

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## THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY — A CANADIAN VIEW

In a speech to the Montreal Real Estate Board on January 25, Prime Minister Diefenbaker spoke as follows concerning Canadian policy toward the European Economic Community:

"...In approaching this question, we must have regard to the larger issues as well as to the details of trade arrangements which are of particular concern to Canada from our economic point of view. When viewed in the larger perspective, this situation is one which gives rise both to promise and to problems.

"It should be recalled that the European Economic Community is the result of the efforts to create a closer economic and political union in Europe which culminated in the Treaty of Rome of 1957. This treaty in itself represents a great achievement on the part of its six member nations — France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg....

"There was some doubt in the minds of many, even after the treaty has been signed, whether it could be carried into effect, involving as it does substantial derogations from the sovereignty of its various members.

### REAL PROGRESS

"It now seems evident that these nations of Western Europe are making very real progress towards unity in their political thought and action as well as in their economic and social affairs. Faced by both the challenges and opportunities of the modern world in which new gigantic powers have developed to their East and to their West, the nations of Western Europe

have succeeded in putting behind them the old suspicions and antagonisms which divided them.

"This strengthened unity of our friends in Europe is in itself something which Canada naturally supports.

"In its political aspects, it should lead, as time goes on, to a Europe strong enough to reduce in matters of defence its dependence on North America.

"With the economic strength it has and can develop, and with the political skill and wisdom which the Europeans possess, a united Western Europe should be a strong potential force for security and improvement in the world.

"Problems for Canada and for the Commonwealth have arisen by the proposal that the United Kingdom has made to join the Common Market. The Commonwealth is a major influence for unity and harmony in the world. It is an association of a very different character from that being formed in Europe — an association of nations separated by distance and united in diversity, while nearness and similarity are the characteristics of the European Community.

"The unique value of the Commonwealth is its ability to link nations in all parts of the world with different origins and economic levels, cultures and social structures.

"It is essentially a looser form of association than that being created in Europe but one which has a strength and usefulness impossible to duplicate or replace.