

I do not think I am being alarmist; such a confrontation is apprehended by expert observers on both sides of the Atlantic. The world cannot afford such a costly mistake. Think for a moment about the kind of world in which such a confrontation would take place. In the Far East there is the economic miracle of Japan. The Japanese are beginning to dismantle their import restrictions. They will not be encouraged to continue by retrograde developments in the West. China is emerging upon the world scene as a potential super-power, and, in terms of population, as a market potentially greater than Europe.

By 1972, if not, indeed, in 1971, the Peking Government could be seated at the United Nations. Certainly this is what Canada hopes to see happen. The changes that could flow from this development are incalculable. Little is known of China's intentions. One thing is certain: if Europe and North America are devoting too much of their energies to a sterile trade conflict, they will find it difficult to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by China's growing participation in world affairs.

Trading opportunities with the nations of Eastern Europe are opening up at an accelerating rate. We must be in a position to take full advantage of these, not just because of their economic benefits but because they make an important contribution to the improvement of East-West relations. More trade means more contacts, better understanding and increased opportunity for effective negotiation of issues. The search for a better accommodation with the Soviet Union must be pursued with skill, patience and determination by Europe and America working together, not at odds in trade or anything else.

The developing nations of the Third World must be watching any drift in this direction with deepening concern and apprehension. Recent studies have reinforced the conviction that a maximum effort is required in the next decade, in terms of aid and trade, to enable these nations to escape the treadmill of poverty, hunger and over-population. This calls for a concerted effort by all the developed nations.

The nations of North America and Europe are not answerable only to themselves. As custodians of a great part of the world's knowledge, technological resources and wealth, they must account for their stewardship to the developing nations. Politically mature and experienced, they must engage their energies in the search for a lasting settlement of world tensions.

I have said that in Canada we have some very real concerns. This is true, but in Canada we also have faith that reason will triumph over the search for temporary advantage and that the nations of North America and Europe will continue to work together for the greater good of all mankind.

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