

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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OUR NEW ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP

Speech by Mr. Escott Reid, Canadian Ambassador to Germany, Hanover, May 6, 1961, at the North American Day Conference of the Hanover Fair.

In recent years there has been an increasing realization in all our North Atlantic countries of our increasing economic interdependence. One happy result of this has been the conception of a new economic partnership -- the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development -- which is expected to be born this autumn. It is about the economic challenges and opportunities of our new Atlantic partnership as we see them in Canada that I wish to speak this afternoon.

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to set forth the Canadian approach to the work of the OECD in the presence of this distinguished audience and in particular of the speakers who will follow me: Mr. Hodges, the Secretary of Commerce of the country whose initiative led to the formation of the new Organization; Dr. Kristensen, whom we have been so fortunate to secure as Secretary-General; Dr. Erhard, the great prophet of North Atlantic economic co-operation.

Economic Growth

The first of the three major objectives of the OECD is to achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment while maintaining financial stability. This aim is of fundamental importance not only in order to provide a more abundant life in freedom for the Atlantic countries, but also to enable these countries to provide a higher level of trade and investment in the newly developing areas of the world.

Although the Canadian economy, in parallel with the United States economy, has been expanding slowly and unevenly in recent years and although this slowing down of expansion has been associated with a higher level of unemployment than can be regarded as tolerable, Canada has maintained its belief in outward-looking solutions to economic problems. We have demonstrated this belief by our strong and active support of such institutions as the GATT and the International Monetary Fund in the field of trade, and