

The Press: Mr. Sharp, I'm trying to get at the active areas of this review. Your statements on a number of areas, notably OAS and the Commonwealth and our relations with the United States and presumably on NATO sound very much like the statements of your predecessor although more crisply stated. That seems to leave the new initiative towards communist China and the expansion of relations with French speaking countries of Africa as the active areas. Is that right? Is that going to be the area of concentration for the review?

Mr. Sharp: No. The most active area of this review is our relations with Europe.

The Press: Well, what's new?

Mr. Sharp: Well that is where we are considering the posture of our foreign policy in particular. It is in our relations with Europe and of course that reacts on a great many other parts of the world.

The Press: Do you include Russia in Europe....?

Mr. Sharp: No, I am talking here about Western Europe. We believe that we should be looking very carefully at our bilateral arrangements with Western Europe because we have first of all many people in this country who very close links with those countries. We believe we can cultivate closer relationships to our mutual advantage. We are looking at NATO in this context. We are looking at NORAD in the context of NATO. We are looking at our relations with Latin America in relation to the United States too.

The Press: Do you include Great Britain in Western Europe in this context?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, there are not any urgent needs I do not think to change anything about our relations with Britain, but we are thinking mostly about Continental Europe where we believe that we should be cultivating much more extensively our relations with those countries because we have many opportunities for expanding very useful contacts in the political, and the cultural and the trade areas. The main thrust of our review will be towards our relations with Europe.