

Habitat 76 in Vancouver. It should also be noted that, over the last few years, the directors of all the divisions of the Department of External Affairs concerned with European matters have made fact-finding visits to Strasbourg. In short, the idea of closer co-operation at the intergovernmental level is also gaining ground.

Closer relations

The preceding remarks are merely an introduction, and the following ideas are intended to form a basis for consideration of the future development of our relations with Strasbourg.

As we have seen, the conventions and agreements signed under the aegis of the Council of Europe involve a variety of subjects, largely relating to the protection of human rights and the improvement of the quality of life. They may be signed by non-member countries and, as has been pointed out many times, Canada should give serious thought to the possibility of adhering to some of these accords — for example, those relating to patents, television, adoption and mutual assistance in penal matters.

The Council's European Youth Centre in Strasbourg is ideally equipped for meetings and conferences and has a fine library, to which Canada has already given a few basic works. In the future, contacts could be established between the Centre and Canadian youth organizations wishing to share their experiences with the young people of Europe. The Canada Council and other foundations could perhaps encourage Canadian researchers to go to Strasbourg to study the information material to be found there; they would certainly be well received, and would enjoy a most rewarding experience. The possibility of arranging educational visits for young graduates, as the Commission of the Euro-

pean Communities does in Brussels, should also be considered. In the same way, centres for European studies in Canada would benefit by acquiring more complete documentation on The Eighteen. It would also be desirable for our European correspondents to take more interest in the Council's activities, which they will certainly find to be a mine of information.

Perhaps the Council of Europe, in stating that it is "open to the world", will one day grant certain "largely European" countries such as Canada the status of "permanent observer", similar to the status of the Organization of American States has conferred since 1971 on certain countries with a keen interest in its activities. Canada, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Guyana, Israel, Japan, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands. With the future in mind, the example merits serious consideration by the Council of Europe, even though the formula would necessitate an amendment to the 1949 Statute. There are many Canadians — Parliamentarians in particular — who would welcome such an initiative.

In short, there can be no doubt that if Canada wishes to increase its contacts with Western Europe, it has every opportunity in following the work of the Council of Europe more closely. Moreover, there is, in my view, no greater or more representative political forum in Western Europe for putting forward the Canadian point of view at the Parliamentary level. This is surely approaching when the Minister of Canada or the Secretary of State for External Affairs will make an official visit to Strasbourg to present the general lines of our foreign policy and stress the increasing importance of Canada on the new forward-surg-ing Euro-

Social partnership protects Austria from economic woes

By W. L. Luetkens

The only true economic miracle occurred in Austria — after all, the Germans had to work for theirs. Thus runs a piece of self-irony and self-knowledge much appreciated by Austrians. The facts behind the little joke are impressive.

From being a largely agricultural state in the interwar years, Austria starved and toiled to survive, but became a highly industrialized nation. Industrial production had, as early as 1949, outstripped prewar levels.