



Statements and Speeches

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THE CONTRACTUAL LINK: WHY AND HOW?

Address by Mr. Marcel Cadieux Ambassador of Canada to the European Communities, to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Toronto, November 24, 1976.

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I remember that -- it seems to me only recently -- I came here to discuss our relations with the United States. I welcomed then the opportunity, being at that time Ambassador in Washington, to outline some of the problems that then seemed to me to be important in this sector of our external relations. I found it of benefit to hear comments and to deal with questions related to the points I had brought up for discussion.

Today, I propose to deal naturally with a different aspect of our external relations -- our link with the European Communities. This is all the more understandable now that I have now been transferred to Brussels where I am in charge of our Mission to these Communities. But, to be frank with you, there is another reason why I welcome this opportunity to answer some of the questions I think are being raised here in Canada concerning these relations.

Unless I am wrong (and when you are abroad it is more difficult to keep in touch with feelings and trends at home), my impression is that, in certain quarters, business and the media, and perhaps also in academic circles, there is some uncertainty concerning our relations with the Communities, the "contractual link" and, more particularly, the agreement that was signed with the Communities on July 6 last.

During the time available this evening, I should like to address myself to this particular problem and try to provide answers to two questions: Why did we want or need to have a contractual link with the Communities and how do we propose to implement it? I shall be brief in my observations so as to allow more time for questions, for a dialogue. I am just as keen to get your views as to deliver my message.

I should point out, in trying to answer the first question, that we are not, obviously, a member of the Community. Because of this, it is more difficult for us to know what is going on within the
