

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TRADE****POSSIBLE ENTRY OF BRITAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES
INTO EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET—OPPORTUNITY
FOR CANADIAN EXPORTS**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of his recent visit to Europe. Will the minister tell the House whether he has been able to secure any assurance from Britain and other members of EFTA with regard to Canada being able to gain entry into the markets of those countries, particularly for grain, lumber and various agricultural products?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): In general, Mr. Speaker, the tariffs around the European Economic Community are among the lowest in the world. They are certainly a lot lower than the tariffs around Canada and the United States. In general, we have access to the market in Europe for industrial products and we have taken great advantage of it. Last year our exports to the Common Market were up by 40 per cent, an extremely good record. There are, however, difficulties with regard to agriculture. This is one of the principal reasons why the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and myself have been presenting the case for consideration of the position of third countries. This is very well understood. How much success we shall achieve, I do not know, because we do not even know yet whether Britain will succeed in getting into the Community.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I think what concerns those who are exporting primary products is not tariffs so much as quotas. Are Britain and the other nations which are seeking entry into the Common Market prepared to negotiate for a special status for Canada and the other Commonwealth countries, so that we may continue to enjoy a measure of preferred access to the British market?

Mr. Sharp: I think it goes without saying that Britain could not get into the Common Market and still maintain preferential arrangements with other countries; that would be contrary to the underlying principle of the Common Market. However, the British government has been urging the need for a longer period of transition; they have been urging that the quotas and tariffs of the Common Market should be changed to facilitate their entry, and this might result in some beneficial effects for us. We, of course, have been joining in these efforts.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Can the minister tell the House whether it is his impression that the countries of the European Common Market and those countries which propose to join are still disposed to take part in the round of negotiations proposed as a means of establishing a new international wheat agreement?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I raised this question when I was in Europe. We also raised it with the Americans when they were in Ottawa. We have been urging support for this course, and when I was in Europe I felt that the results were at least promising.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Stanfield: Could I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to explain very briefly just how the longer transitional period for which Britain is asking would help the export of Canadian agricultural products?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether you would wish me to enter into a technical discussion. The situation, simply, is that at the present time Britain operates a tariff system of its own, with preferences for us. If a long period of transition were provided, the tariff structure would change gradually from that which now exists to the new tariffs within the Common Market. So our preferential position could be retained for a somewhat longer time in diminishing degree.

**POSSIBLE BRITISH ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN COMMON
MARKET—REVIEW OF CANADIAN ECONOMIC
COMMITMENTS UNDER NATO**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the opinion expressed by the minister at the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels, that there should be a constant dialogue between the United States and Europe to avoid a trade confrontation, does the minister or the government intend to press for a complete review of our NATO commitments and responsibilities, especially in connection with economic matters, in the hope of offsetting any economic losses which may occur to Canada if Britain joins the Common Market?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Not specifically. My purpose in raising this question in the NATO context was related to Article II under which we are supposed to be co-operating in economic matters. When I was pursuing this point I was not speaking only for Canada; I was speaking for Europe, the United States and Canada. I believe it is very much in the interest of all members of the alliance that there should be co-operation. If we fail to co-operate we shall all suffer, not only Canada.

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INFORMATION CANADA**ADVERTISEMENT FOR CHIEF OF ATTITUDINAL SURVEYS**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister without Portfolio who answers for Information Canada. Yesterday I asked the Prime Minister about the appointment by Information Canada of a chief of attitudinal surveys at a salary of almost \$23,000 a year. As the right hon. gentleman was not able to cope with the question, I ask the minister whether he will make a statement on motions shortly indicating the government's intentions, whether it is intended to set up an arm of the Public Service to take public opinion polls, bearing in mind the dangers which might arise from slanting, distorting or influencing these polls?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. My understanding of the hon. member's question is that he asked whether the