

theory, there are only two choices remaining for Canada:

EEC-Canada alliance to counter the United States;

Canada standing alone against its neighbour to the south.

The first hypothesis raises more questions concerning the European Community's intentions towards Canada. It is clear, however, that it would be a mistake for Canada to consider having the European Community take over the role of the United States. As for the second hypothesis, it is a matter of pursuing the path of co-operation, and even economic integration, of Canada with the United States. The proponents of this hypothesis question the functionalist thesis of the integration process. Thus, as with the integration process in Western Europe, certain geographical, economic and cultural factors, not to mention political factors such as the American and Canadian federal systems, are working in favour of North American integration. According to this line of reasoning, there exists a degree of unconscious integration and an "integrative situation" that characterizes Canadian-American relations.

While the Canadian Government has recognized the importance of the EEC, it is nonetheless clear that Canadian public opinion has scarcely concerned itself with the issue. However, it seems that neither the Government nor public opinion wishes the First Option to be pursued — that is, continuation of the policy of the Sixties towards the United States. As for the other two hypotheses, concerning co-operation and integration with the United States and diversification of Canada's relations with the EEC, there is a certain amount of controversy.

It is relevant to underline that this Agreement is unique among industrialized countries and that we are pioneering a new form of international economic co-operation . . . .

Having successfully met the first challenge by reaching agreement on the framework, we must now infuse it with life. This will be an important function of the Joint Co-operation Committee which has been created under the terms of the Agreement.

We do not expect things to change overnight, but we do hope that the Agreement will act as a catalyst to stimulate economic co-operation which will on our part involve not only the private sector but also the provinces. It

According to a public-opinion poll taken in 1973, French-speaking Canadians are more in favour of integration with the United States than are English-speaking Canadians. This attitude could be explained by the fact that French-speaking Canadians feel only the economic influence of the United States, while English-speaking Canadians are exposed to the cultural and psychological influences as well. For English-speaking Canadians, therefore, this co-operation or integration with the United States would tend to slow down the process of gaining a national identity. Officials of the European Community have shown a desire, however, to recognize Canada as a country distinct from the United States. The Canadian Government has moved slowly in providing information on Canada to member countries of the Community, and the urgency of this need should be recognized.

From Canada's passive attitude of the Sixties to the signing of the treaty establishing preferential links between Canada and the European Community, the decision-making process has been accompanied by a constructive dialogue. However, the effects of contractual links are not immediate. It is important, therefore, that a large-scale publicity campaign be undertaken to provide information to those in Canada likely to be interested in co-operation with Europe. In view, on the one hand, of the unusual complexity of the Community's institutions and, on the other hand, of the European experience with the associate countries in this area, it is in Canada's interest to set up structured institutions to promote long-term co-operation. It is in the European Community's interest to establish a generous policy towards Canada in order to demonstrate to future partners the advantages of contractual links.

*Large-scale  
publicity  
campaign  
required*

is fitting, therefore, that today the representatives of the member states and of the European Communities share the table with representatives of Canada's provincial governments and private business, who will all have to play their part if the Agreement is to achieve its potential.

Thus, today's ceremony, far from being the end of a process, marks the beginning of a new venture. We now have a design and framework; it is now up to both sides to translate promise into performance.

*Extracts from a statement by Allan MacEachen on the signing of the Framework Agreement with the European Communities, July 6, 1976.*