

centred in the North Atlantic area, where are to be found most of Canada's major trading partners, its main security problems, its most important source of investment and manpower, the mainsprings of its political and cultural heritage.

There is the indisputable fact, moreover, that, after the United States, Western Europe is the wealthiest, most industrialized and technologically most advanced area of the world. West European countries have a combined power and influence which makes themselves felt in most other regions—in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Canada's policy objectives in these other regions for the most part could not be pursued very effectively without some degree of co-operation with either the United States or Western Europe, or both. For example:

- Peacekeeping operations in the past (especially the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF)) depended for success on maintaining a broad consensus among the countries of the North Atlantic area, needed for both political momentum and financial support.
- Virtually all the multilateral programmes for international development depend on sustained support from the same group of governments, joined by the few developed countries from other regions.
- International efforts to deal with pollution and other environmental problems are likely to depend on the same kind of co-operation.

Especially in the economic field, important international institutions have been established to facilitate such co-operation—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Agency (IDA), the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and others. They derive their initiative, drive, effectiveness and strength from the concentration of effort made by the developed countries. They provide the guiding genius and motive power for a massive system of interlocking machinery which operates in most fields of human endeavour in the contemporary world, a system to which it is in Canada's interest to contribute, not only by maintaining the closest possible ties with the United States but also by fostering further links with the countries of Western Europe.

Canada also has a substantial, and growing, interest in developing its relations with the Communist countries of Eastern Europe, not only because of the benefits of increased trade, scientific and technological co-