

to be flexible enough to accommodate itself to future changes in the powers of the Commission itself.

It was in part because of careful efforts like this that, when the European summit meeting took place in the autumn, the question of the EEC's relations with countries outside the Community was on the agenda. And because we had worked hard to prepare the ground, the European leaders affirmed in the Summit communique that they wished "to maintain a constructive dialogue with the USA, Japan and Canada and the other industrialized Community partners, in an outward-looking spirit and the most appropriate form". If the Summit had taken place, say, two years ago, I very much doubt that it would have seemed natural to the leaders of the EEC countries to single out Canada in this way along with the United States and Japan.

I am happy to say that the constructive dialogue mentioned in the Summit communique is continuing. A delegation of senior EEC officials will begin a four-day round of talks with their Canadian counterparts in Ottawa next week. These talks will provide an opportunity to review certain world economic problems, like inflation. They will also provide for further examination, in considerable detail, of the substance of Canada's relations with the EEC. While the talks remain exploratory in nature, it will provide some indication of how thoroughly the matter is being pursued if I list some of the subjects we have said we want to discuss. They include the possibility of negotiating a bilateral MFN agreement with the Community itself, the modernization of agreements relating to goods in transit, the question of state purchasing policies, of countervail, cabotage, export subsidies, concessional financing, security of supplies of energy and raw materials, copyright, consumer protection, protection of the environment, standards and quality control.

These are not the only subjects we have mentioned, and the representatives of the Community will not necessarily be in a position at this stage to pursue even subjects I have listed. But there is no question that the dialogue is well and truly launched. And there is no question that it proceeds from a clear understanding on the part of the EEC Commission and of the EEC governments that the problems posed for Canada by the enlargement and consolidation of the Community merit serious and separate consideration.

Let me now turn to our relations with the United States. Here I think the present state of play may be somewhat clearer, because the Government's position has been placed on the record with considerable care in recent weeks and even days.

To begin, I hope that, if you have not done so already, you will obtain a copy of the special issue of