

Q. It is not...?

A. It isn't. No. Right. Our purpose, as is the purpose of the United States, of France, of Britain, of Germany, of any other country you can think of, to promote the national objectives of Canadians. That isn't a selfish policy. That just is what it is. Those national objectives might be very magnanimous such as more aid to developing countries, but that is a national objective. We're not in that in order to be good fellows in the world, we're in that to promote what we consider to be one of the objectives that Canadians share.

Q. Now this involves a continued membership in NATO, though at a reduced level?

A. That's right.

Q. Does this also mean that Canada will make some kind of an effort of an association or affiliation with the European Common Market?

A. I don't think that we will apply, for example, for associate membership as some countries have. One of the reasons for this is that we are very concerned about this growth of another preferential area around Europe. We're not so much concerned about the fact that Britain and Norway and Denmark and Ireland join the Common Market as full members. We are concerned that there are a number of other countries that haven't taken on all the obligations of membership that are going to be associated in a preferential arrangement, not only neutral countries in Europe but countries along the Mediterranean and so on. And what we see emerging is a preferential area that will appear to be directed against the rest of the world, and in particular against the United States and ourselves.

Q. So here our interests run rather parallel with the United States? On this particular question.

A. They do. On that particular question almost exactly parallel.

Q. Does that make...?

A. Well perhaps I ought to go on and say, however, what we have been saying to both the Europeans and to the Americans is: for goodness sakes, don't get into a trade war. Because the Americans don't like the preferential areas and the Europeans say, well the Americans are going isolationist, or are going protectionist. We say, you know, there are too many common interests at stake here, in the North Atlantic world, to allow that sort of a trade confrontation. It would be very sterile and very destructive. So that before that begins,