

*Assumptions  
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go on buying political influence at German expense.

There are other tensions — as, for example, over the question of fishing limits — where Britain and Ireland have been half-hearted allies against the rest but whole-hearted enemies of each other. But the real matters at stake are more important than any of these individual instances, even the CAP. The fact is that the assumptions of ideological community on which the EEC was founded — a shared belief in the structures and values of liberal democracy — have now given way to a profound political uncertainty. The political instability and tendency towards polarization between neo-Fascist and neo-Communist is notorious in Italy; in France there are strong prospects of a socialist-Communist victory in the next elections; in Britain there is deep apprehension that the country's economic difficulties could lead to acute social and political conflicts.

The politics of the EEC are not overtly determined by such questions; but each country frames its approach to Europe primarily by reference to its own expectations of domestic stability. This

goes beyond the question of "Euro-Communism" can change. Whether it can or not, it would divide The Nine. The only European country that has preserved prosperity, social cohesion and authority is Germany. Germany is sidizing the rest. Since this has already produced a backlash in politics, the present German government is anxious not to do so in the case of Britain. But it remains that the continued strength even perhaps the survival, of the Community now depends on it. One might perhaps be thankful for the power struggle between Bonn and Paris that was implicit in much of what has been said here has been won by Germany. At present Herr Schmidt and his leagues are leaning over backwards to show understanding to recalcitrant desperate cases. But it must remain to question whether their country can afford to do this forever, and whether the Community can find a vehicle for a more sensible coalition than it has found in the past.

## Canada's image in Europe still needs improvement

By André P. Donneur

One of the major elements in the "Third Option" policy — Canada's long-term strategy for becoming more independent of the United States — has been to consolidate and develop relations with Western Europe. This policy has not only consisted of negotiating and concluding an agreement with the European Economic Community — bilateral ties have also been strengthened. Several trips by the Prime Minister to member countries of the Community have drawn much attention. His visit to Paris two years ago was a particularly striking example of this policy; relations with France, which had undergone a period of serious crisis between 1967 and 1969 and a subsequent period of normalization, entered at that time upon a new era of co-operation.

What effects have these efforts on Canada's part, over the last four years in any case, had on European governments? Has what we imagine to be Canada's image abroad — that of a country riding on the coat-tails of the United States — been dispelled in Europe? In the first place, this has not been the unanimous view of foreign servers, Europeans in particular. Since Canada ever stated its desire to reduce American influence through the Third Option policy, it was thought of by a considerable number of European leaders as a distinct country, and with its own diplomacy, made possible by the efforts of Lester B. Pearson in the Fifties.