

It was not the German foreign minister, it was the American foreign minister [James Baker] who for the first time, when he presented his speech in Berlin, spoke of the more political character of the alliance — and I think Jim Baker is totally right in saying this....<sup>40</sup>

Finally, a political interpretation of Genscher's proposal has led some Canadian officials to perceive the possibility that Genscher was placing the newly united Germany the same distance from both North America and the not yet defunct Soviet Union.<sup>41</sup>

SSEA Clark had anticipated that Genscher's visit would be an opportunity for Canada to work with its European partners "on shaping a new Europe and the institutions it shares with North America".<sup>42</sup> Genscher's thoughts on a trans-Atlantic declaration complemented the Canadian position which was to impress on the Germans the desire to reinforce trans-Atlantic links from "Vancouver to Vladivostok, via Berlin".

The all-encompassing nature of the Genscher proposal, however, may have ensured that the idea was too ambitious at that time, especially since multilateral discussions were taking place on how to broaden the CSCE and reconfigure NATO. Indeed, one suggestion for this lack of immediate follow-up is that a senior official at EAITC feared that a movement on the TAD would undermine NATO.<sup>43</sup> Whatever the reason, on the Canadian side the idea of a Declaration fell into abeyance until September. On the US side, as we have indicated, negotiations began in June. But this is not to say that Canadian officials and politicians were indifferent to new mechanisms and fora to formalize trans-Atlantic relations.

### *Canada Looks at Ways of Strengthening Trans-Atlantic Ties*

With Europe a priority, in early May 1990 Derek Burney, Canada's Ambassador to the US and one of the Prime Minister's closest foreign policy advisors, had his officials in Washington reflect on possible Canadian policy options in face of increasing European economic integration, including new, more comprehensive trade arrangements between Canada and the European Community.<sup>44</sup> The deliberations in Washington had coincided with the arrival of a new Under-Secretary of State at EAITC, De Montigny Marchand.<sup>45</sup>

Two plausible explanations may account for the fact that an independent analysis of Canadian trade policy vis-à-vis the Community appeared to have been initiated in the Canadian Embassy in Washington: 1) there was a perception within the