

No Associate Tie for Canada

I have myself heard the opinion clearly expressed by high-ranking and influential European statesmen that membership or association for such a non-European country as Canada would radically change the entire character of the Community and would be inconsistent with its most cherished objective: a tightly knit, politically unified Europe. Needless to say, we have not been asked to join and, let's face it, we would not be welcomed if we sought to apply for membership or association.

It seems to me that people who have advocated that Canada join the European Economic Community have not been aware of these plain facts. Nor have they really examined the terms of the Treaty of Rome or what the economic and trade effects would be for Canada. There is no doubt that we would be expected to remove all tariffs against the Community. This would open up the whole Canadian market to their goods which, as you know, are made up very largely of manufactures. The European Economic Community, on the other hand, would never consent to opening up their markets to the free flow of our agricultural products. Although they have agreed on the main conditions for a common agricultural policy by no means all their internal agricultural problems have as yet been resolved. What sort of bargain would it be for Canada if some of our major exports could not receive access comparable with their access to our market? Quite apart from the balance of the bargain, it is difficult to see how we could pursue our national objective of promoting a balanced economic structure in this country in circumstances where our markets for manufactured goods were wide open to the unrestricted competition of the highly efficient and low-cost industries of Europe.

The fact that we cannot join the European Economic Community does not imply any lack of sympathy for its objectives. We see great potential merit in what is now taking place in Europe and, provided these efforts are oriented in the right direction, we, as friends, trading partners and allies of the Six, stand to gain from the economic strengthening of the Continent. I wish to make this quite clear to you: if we have any vested interest in Europe at all, this interest, cultural, political, economic and strategic, lies in a strong Europe. At the same time, it is only right and proper that we should be concerned about the direction which European developments may take. A cohesive Europe, to be really strong and to make an effective contribution to world affairs, must not be built at the expense of the trade and economic interests of other countries. For these reasons the United States and Canada have urged the Six to follow outward-looking policies rather than those restrictive of trade abroad.

Canada has vital and growing trade interests in the six countries of the Common Market. We are trading substantially with this area now and we have been making powerful efforts to expand this trade. At almost half a billion dollars, our exports