



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENTER UNMAPPED TERRITORY

A Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, on the Occasion of the First Meeting of the Canada/European Communities Joint Co-operation Committee, Brussels, December 10, 1976.

I thank you, Monsieur Ortoli, for your kind words of welcome. It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this important occasion -- the inaugural meeting of our Joint Co-operation Committee. I can assure you that I share your appreciation of the approach that should inform and guide those concerned in the implementation of the agreement that we have "put in place" with the objective of bringing about increased economic co-operation between Canada and the European Communities. In particular, it is essential that those who, from today, will have the challenge of giving meaning and substance to our declared intentions should set about that task with a sense of realism and purpose.

In signing the Framework Agreement, it could be said that both Canada and the Community have entered into uncharted territory. As you have indicated, Monsieur Ortoli, the Agreement represents the first such agreement the European Communities have negotiated with an industrialized country. And Canada has never before negotiated such an agreement. We have, therefore, neither precedent nor experience as a guide.

What we do start with, however, are wide-ranging and deep-rooted links between Canada and the Europe of The Nine. These links have been and continue to be strong and vital -- those of history and ethnic origins, of shared values and traditions, of mutual security, of economic interdependence and of international co-operation. Indeed, it was this reality, these established relations, that impinged in no small way on the basic review of foreign policy that Canada undertook just a few years ago. One of the major conclusions to emerge from that review was the need to achieve a better balance or equilibrium in our external relations through the diversification of these relations, notably with respect to our external economic interests. Given our links with Europe, it was logical in the circumstances for Canada to seek a stronger and more vital economic content to our relations with Western Europe. Our consequent initiatives to develop our bilateral economic relations with the member states of the Community, particularly in the area of industrial co-operation, you are aware of, and, I am pleased to say, they are
