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develop additional or alternative means of promoting closer links between us. There is also the advantage that, in a situation where, in some ways, we are outsiders, where we do not have ready and immediate access to information, the personal contacts that will be established as a result of formal and informal meetings will in the end make it easier for us, within the Mission to the Communities, to find out how they are working and what new courses of action they may be contemplating.

To summarize now. It seems to me that to both questions, why we needed a contractual link and how we propose to implement it, there are sensible answers. They may not always be easy to work out, particularly as regards the second one, but I myself find it intriguing and challenging to see, in effect, how we can use existing instruments to achieve policy objectives that are desirable in themselves and, if these traditional instruments do not work well, to experiment with or seek new techniques, new procedures, to achieve these results. I am quite convinced that we should, and will, develop our mutual links to our great advantage. There is the political will to achieve this; it will be astonishing indeed if, given the favourable circumstances I have just outlined, we were not able to find a way to succeed.

I should mention here as a good omen the fact that the link, the contract, was negotiated very quickly, contrary to many prophets of gloom. I see in the speed of these negotiations an indication that, on both sides, there is good will and a belief that something can be achieved. I might add as another favourable sign that schemes to implement the agreement did not await signature. Sectoral missions were exchanged between Canada and the Communities while the negotiations were going on. And in this next phase, when we are to set up the machinery, the links, formal or otherwise, foreseen or provided for in the agreement, additional schemes are being carried out. There is a continuing search for arrangements that will enable us to achieve the object of the agreement. If the private sector and governmental entities in Canada, as well as in Europe, can find a way of co-ordinating their efforts, I think that we can be successful. I am not suggesting that results will be immediate and that they will be very substantial to begin with. After all, geography must remain a factor and progress in implementing this scheme will be related to policy decision both on the part of the Community and on the part of our own Government that will have to evolve at the normal speed with which decisions of substantial national importance are made. But then the problem is not with the agreement or how we implement it but with the very structure, the very development and operation, of both Canada and the Communities. Even then,

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