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April 26, 1961

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AN ANGLO-CANADIAN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Replying in the House of Commons on April 13 to a suggestion that he provide "a short summary of what transpired during the visit to Ottawa of the...Prime Minister of the United Kingdom", Prime Minister Diefenbaker said that, although he did not feel at liberty "to reveal the substance of the various private discussions" that had been held between himself and Mr. Macmillan, nevertheless "some general indication of the topics...covered" might be of interest. His outline of the topics discussed follows:

"One of the most important was the United Kingdom's relationship with Europe. This is a matter of major importance not only to the United Kingdom and the countries of Europe but to Canada itself, and indeed the whole Western world. It should not be seen in purely economic terms, but as a broad development of much consequence in which there must be a careful weighing of both short and long term considerations and of political as well as economic factors. The United Kingdom Government has these broad considerations in mind in examining the question of its relations with Europe.

ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY

*Reference has been made to the conception of an Atlantic Community. As I indicated yesterday, these relations among groupings in Europe and groupings in other regions of the world will take a very long time to develop and mature. It is well to recall, however, that to some extent the Atlantic Community already exists, not in an institutional form but in a degree of spiritual fellowship and also in the various forms of co-operation in the military, political and economic spheres. It is naturally desirable, if not mandatory, in the interests of reinforcing the collective strength, stability and understanding of the Western world, that co-operation should be expanded and intensified as practical possibilities permit.

CONCERN OVER COMMON MARKET

"I took the opportunity to restate the concern of the Canadian Government regarding arrangements which the United Kingdom might work out with Common Market countries, that full account be taken of the trading interests of Canada. I made it clear that this would be particularly necessary in the field of agricultural products in which Canada has a substantial interest, and in respect of which the Common Market treaty has not yet led to specific trading arrangements. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom left me with a clear impression that the United Kingdom Government intends to make every effort to work out a satisfactory means of participating in the economic organization of Europe without detriment to Canadian or Commonwealth interests. In this connection discussions will continue from time to time, and my hope is that, through