

date poorly, but the Government has given it little encouragement to do better.

One of the first things the Government wanted the Europeans to do was to distinguish clearly between Canadian and American interests. Anyone following Canadian and American policies with regard to Europe itself will have noticed a distinct difference in style. Our diplomats were working quietly away on a new policy for Europe when the Nixon Administration announced, with suitable fanfare, the ill-fated "Year of Europe". Perhaps the fact that it *did* fizzle speaks well for the quiet Canadian style. Yet the lack of any public identity for the Canadian initiative, then in a very early stage, caused us to soft-pedal and delay our own progress.

The fact is that we were not sure where we were going. Canadian policy swung round slowly, from one of questioning relations with Europe and a reduction in military support for NATO in the late Sixties to an unequivocal embrace by the end of 1975.

The sign at the end of the long road back can be taken as the announcement, at the end of November 1975, to bolster the commitment to NATO. Prime Minister Trudeau said in a speech in Calgary in April 1969 that, in the order of defence priorities, the protection of Canadian sovereignty was in a separate category, with precedence over support for NATO. Yet, when Mr. James Richardson, the Minister of National Defence, was asked about the first priority at the end of 1975, he said that the main threat to Canadian sovereignty would come in Europe. Canada could adhere to the first priority by strengthening its defence support in Europe. What a timely and convenient rationalization to make when Canada and the European Commissions were trying to clear away the last European (Danish) reservations to allow negotiations on the Link to begin!

The Europeans have not formally linked the Link to the question of Canada's future support for NATO. Several European leaders did have some pointed

*Announcement of decision to bolster NATO commitment*

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