

We have described our goal as the attainment of a contractual link. Because we do not know -- indeed Europe does not know -- how far or how fast its experiment in integration will take it, or what form it will assume on arrival, no overall agreement can be laid in place at this time. But what can be done is to create a mechanism that will provide the means (i.e., the "link") and the obligation (i.e., "contractual") to consult and confer, and to do so with materials sufficiently pliable and elastic to permit the mechanism to adapt in future years to accommodate whatever jurisdiction the European Community from time to time assumes.

In each of the capitals I have visited I have been heartened by the willingness of governments to examine such a conception. Nowhere have I found it necessary to emphasize that Canada is not seeking preferential treatment or special advantages -- for this would be contrary to the GATT -- but only a guarantee of fair treatment at the hands of an economic unit rapidly becoming the most powerful in the world. In the interim since my visit to Europe last autumn, a series of exploratory talks has commenced with the object of constructing a framework within which formal negotiations will take place.

The extension in this fashion of co-operation among industrialized nations and the creation of co-operative institutions are important functions and necessary ones. Yet, however well-designed and sturdily-built, these structures will crumble away and be regarded by historians of the future with the same air of detachment now visited upon archaeological ruins if they are not extended still further and made global in their reach and in the distribution of their benefits. Happily, this very extension is now under way. There has been a step toward redemption of promises extended on several occasions that the European Community would not submit to the temptation and false luxury of looking only inward. In recent days, a historic agreement has been concluded between the community and a number of developing countries. This agreement is an admirable contribution to the resolution of the broad differences that currently exist in the attitudes of many of the developing and industrialized countries toward the international economic structure. The demands of the developing countries have been carefully formulated and powerfully articulated. They reflect a sense of frustration and anger. Those countries seek no piecemeal adjustments but a comprehensive restructuring of all the components -- fiscal, monetary, trade, transport and investment. The response of the industrialized countries can be no less well-prepared and no less comprehensive in scope. But we should be very wrong, and doing ourselves and our children a great