

for federal government initiatives in Europe. This applies particularly to what is envisaged under the Canada-Community Agreement.

The proposed work programme for the Joint Committee which officials will consider later seems to provide a well-blended menu. I am aware that some useful preliminary work has already begun in areas such as non-ferrous metals and forest products and that there have been exchanges of missions between us in these sectors. These are of obvious interest to both sides as indeed are other proposed items such as cooperation involving the telecommunications, construction and nuclear/uranium industries. As a Canadian from a region where the fisheries industry is a vital part of the economy I am naturally happy, as well as intrigued, that the possibility of fisheries cooperation will also be explored and I look forward to learning of what opportunities may exist for commercial and economic cooperation in this field.

In setting in motion whatever work programme is agreed upon today it is my hope that the Committee will apply the tests of pragmatism and realism to its deliberations. Neither side has suggested at any time that the Agreement would be some kind of panacea, that it could transform our economic relationship overnight, but we must guard against over-optimism without lessening our determination to succeed. I share your view, therefore, that in the first year or so the efforts of the Committee should be directed primarily towards a limited number of areas. This will by no means reduce the effort required of those involved and that should not be underestimated. But if it is well directed the work of the first two years will put in place the most important building block and permit us to move pragmatically from what may well be modest beginnings to more ambitious forms of cooperation. If we proceed in this way I am confident that there will be success down the road.

In closing, may I express to you, Monsieur Ortoli, and to your good colleague Sir Christopher Soames, our appreciation for the personal support which you have always given to our joint efforts to develop a closer and more vigorous economic relationship between Canada and the Community. You may be sure that we have been highly conscious of the cooperation and the constructive spirit you have brought to our relations. Thank you.