

February 5, 1990. Although the speech mentioned increased opportunities for Canada's trade relations with Europe, it focused primarily on the security dimension of Canada's commitment to Europe. On February 7, 1990, SSEA Clark made a special presentation to the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Policy and Defence (CCFPD) where he reiterated many of the points that he had made in the McGill speech, and stressed that if Canada did not seek to intensify its links to Europe through its three pillars - NATO, the CSCE, and the EC (in that order) - it would increasingly be marginalized in Europe.³⁶ Following this presentation, in March 1990 EAITC prepared a presentation to Cabinet on Canada's relations with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.³⁷

Genscher Makes Declaration Proposal to Canadian Parliamentarians

As a further measure of the Canadian Government's concern with and interest in the repercussions of events in Europe, on April 5, during a one day official visit to Canada, the German Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, Hans Dietrich Genscher, made a presentation to the Canadian Parliament. In terms of finding the roots of the TAD, it was on this occasion that Genscher, after having called for a trans-Atlantic declaration in his talks with President Bush the day before in Washington, again publicly dropped the idea of a trans-Atlantic declaration (in the context of a discussion on East-West relations and German re-unification) but this time to a Canadian audience.³⁸ As he stated:

So we are on the way to the political union of Europe, meaning the Europe of the Community, which is not the whole of Europe...As a consequence of this process, I propose to the American government and to your government that we consider, it useful at [this] time, improving relations between the European Community and the two North American democracies, to give our relationship a new quality in addition to our membership in NATO, and to have a new declaration concerning the common challenges we face in the political, economic, technological, and ecological fields. We should consider this approach in order to create a new basis of cooperation between the European Community and the two democracies in North America.³⁹

It would appear that Genscher was reinforcing Secretary of State Baker's call for new thinking on the role of the trans-Atlantic alliance, on the need to change it from its military focus to one with a more political or economic focus. Genscher said as much later in his presentation to Canadian Parliamentarians: