

Canada's Relations With Europe

CANADA'S relations with Europe today and tomorrow formed the theme of a speech delivered by Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, before the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU) at Paris on December 10. Canada was invited by the President of the Assembly to send an observer to the December meeting of the seven-member Union, which includes Belgium, Britain, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Italy and the Federal German Republic.

The meeting attended by Mr. Goyer was devoted to the question of Europe's relations with the U.S.A., with two dominant topics — European-U.S. co-operation and the related topic of European security. Mr. Goyer commenced his address by indicating that Canada offered a "supplementary dimension" to the subjects under discussion, and that it was in this spirit he would address the delegates.

Mr. Goyer described Canada's special position in the world as follows:

"Geographical, historical and commercial factors, together with our political objectives, have created a broad variety of interests unique in the world for a country with Canada's population. Canada has access to three oceans: the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic. We have a common border with the United States, and close relations with Europe; our acquaintance with Asian countries, especially Japan, and soon, perhaps, the People's Republic of China, is developing very rapidly. We are making our presence felt more and more in both English-speaking and French-speaking Africa, and we are in the process of rediscovering Latin America, whose peoples share the same hemisphere with us."

A Multitude of Links

Mr. Goyer thought that Canada's relations with Europe should be carefully re-examined, so that Canada-Europe co-operation would be based on the real needs and interests of both sides. Mr. Goyer cited Canada's constitutional, judicial and cultural links with Europe and the European ethnic background of the vast majority of its people. In foreign policy, he pointed out, Canada had been closely associated with Europe and the U.S. In two world wars and in an alliance that had lasted 20 years, Canada had been involved in European affairs. However, since the creation of NATO circumstances had altered for Europe as well as Canada. From these considerations, Mr. Goyer drew the following implications for Canada:

"Until recent years, Canada has concentrated on furthering its own development and fostering national unity and identity. From now on, Canada intends to regard its own development, taking account of all relevant factors,