

Policy trends
reflected
in document

operation, the harmonization of laws in particular sections and crime prevention. The text of the resolution, while it is rather long, should nevertheless be read attentively by those who want to find out what the role of the Council of Europe is going to be.

More recently, the Council set up an office in Brussels to provide liaison with institutions in the various European communities and make it easier to co-ordinate the work being done in the two "European capitals". In short, the Council has shown vitality and flexibility in the way it has adapted to a different context from that of the Fifties and Sixties. Moreover, the Council's work program, significantly entitled *L'Homme et le milieu européen*, is an extremely interesting document, reflecting the new policy trends that were anxiously awaited in Strasbourg.

Besides making some indispensable changes of a functional nature, the Council, spurred on by its new Secretary-General, Georg Kahn-Ackermann, and many parliamentarians, is endeavouring to increase its influence in the area of foreign policy. It is not without a certain envy that the Council's other members watch The Nine consult one another regularly and even work together on the major international questions, and this is why the idea has been proposed of systematic consultation among The Eighteen at the level of the Committee of Ministers. In the lobbies, there has even been talk of setting up, amongst The Eighteen, an equivalent of the "Davignon procedure". The idea has by no means been fully elaborated, and not all The Nine seem to be enthusiastic, but it could gain more support, if one is to judge, for example, by the concrete steps taken at the CSCE and the fact that the Council would like to participate in future developments.

While the Council of Europe is not a *bloc* and has never been inward-looking, over the last four or five years it has been visibly increasing its contacts with European countries such as Spain, Portugal, Romania, Yugoslavia and Finland, which are not members, and with non-European countries, especially Canada, the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Israel. People come from all parts of the globe to speak before the Parliamentary Assembly. Parliamentary delegations and diplomatic representatives from various countries attend sessions of the Assembly, while experts from certain countries take part regularly in the work of specialist committees such as the Committee on Cultural Co-operation and have the right to speak. Many non-governmental and

intergovernmental organizations, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the WEU and the ICEM, are represented at various meetings, while others, such as the OECD, the EEC, the EFTA, the World Bank and UNESCO submit activity reports to the Assembly.

"Largely European"

According to Count S. G. Strozzi, Assistant Secretary-General, who was quoted at the outset, Strasbourg is not Canada as "a largely-European country". The fact remains that it has taken a long time for some country to become interested in the activities of the Council of Europe, but it seems probably that, under the impetus of its new European representative in Ottawa, the Consulate General recently set up in Strasbourg should make quite a significant contribution, especially as the incumbent in charge, Ambassador Michel Gaubourg, is a very experienced diplomat. Between 1965 and 1973, the Canadian delegation to the OECD established certain contacts, mainly at the time that Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development annual report was being submitted to the Council of Europe, but such contacts were very superficial. As from January 1974, following an exchange of diplomatic visits, it became the responsibility of the European representative in Brussels to maintain liaison with the Council. Ambassador Jules Léger, his successor, Lucien Lamoureux, worked hard to improve relations with Strasbourg.

While these contacts were being established at the Government level, Canadian parliamentarians were taking the initiative in establishing lasting ties with the European Parliamentary Assembly. In 1969, a large delegation of Members of Parliament, including Senators, under the joint chairmanship of the Honourable Paul Martin and the Honourable Donald Macdonald, made an initial visit to Strasbourg; parliamentarians of the Council of Europe, in return, made an official visit to Canada in 1971. It was this meeting that led to the current arrangements whereby delegations from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and from the Government of Canada exchange visits every two years, in Ottawa and Strasbourg alternately. Senator G. Vedovato, then President of the Parliamentary Assembly, was officially welcomed to Ottawa in February 1975. He had talks with the Secretary-General, the acting Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and other ministers, the Leader of the