

uggests to the form this *rapprochement* will take. t a summit suggested a trade agreement with a Nov 9 based on the most-favoured- the mention clause and on a reaffirmation of the ce of provisions of GATT, which would provide and consultation. In addition to tariffs and , Eurostat, the agreement proposed by the n Canadian Government dealt with domestic presen es, valuation, direct shipping, and so on. is part Anxious to uphold the commitments f state the European summit meeting in Paris, ty Co which the Canadians were promised a olitics onstructive dialogue", the Community is ssisted present showing signs of embarrassment. ould hat is the point, the European Com- ean P mission asks, of formally agreeing to hold is pro nsultations when these are running very oothly without any such contract? far to hat is the point of reinstating pro- eprepar ions; that are already binding on both e Commu e Community and Canada under GATT? e fear is would have more disadvantages than nity i vantages if the provisions of GATT would anged or if the bilateral agreement were any co be used as a means of appealing de- a certa ions; made in accordance with GATT. d, but e Community has signed numerous The p reements with less-developed countries s desir t Canada is obviously in a different class as in fa d the Community does not yet know ng par w to establish bilateral relations with pt per dustrialized countries.

The European Commission would like after r discuss new and much more interesting onstru pics with Canada: guaranteed access to e U plies of raw materials and energy, ne a formation of industrial and technological co- eration. However, the problem is that e very interest of these issues has greatly e ques layed the Community's decisions on em. The question is still open.

### Middle East and energy

ne issues on which Mr. Giscard d'Es- e toleras ing's foreign policy is most clearly de- e met ed are energy and the Middle East. On e met nique, e energy question, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing is been upholding the policy of Georges ed Le ompidou and Michel Jobert against that e inter Henry Kissinger. The Americans have t and t concealed their desire to head the in- o com ternational co-operation made necessary as e is fu result of the energy crisis; in February da, ha 74, they organized a conference in Wash- tton bringing together the major oil- tton be: nssuming countries. The French position ppread as that, if the consuming countries dis- and p sessed the problem first among themselves, Sta res would develop into a confrontation be- gth. e major producing countries discussed it, clos.or us would probably mean pushing into the omnu ackground the fact that by far the hardest , how



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*Since his succession to the presidency Valery Giscard d'Estaing has emerged as one of the most active figures in the international community. He is pictured here at a press conference following the December summit meeting of the leaders of the European Common Market countries. He reported that the meeting had agreed on the importance of a common policy to face the worldwide energy crisis.*

hit by the crisis were the developing countries that had no raw materials.

Giscard, finally, was afraid that, if the problem were discussed under American leadership, the fact that the problems of the various countries were radically different might well be overlooked. As one of the members of the European Parliament, Mr. Cousté, said to President Ford: "You produce 85 per cent of your petroleum and are short the other 15 per cent. In our case the proportions are reversed. You can afford to chance a confrontation; we cannot." This explains why before Martinique Mr. Giscard d'Estaing was proposing a tripartite conference on the problem and was looking for support for his position in the international community. It was also the reason for his refusal to sign the agreement of the Twelve on petroleum-sharing when all his fellow members of the Community signed it.

It is perhaps the Palestinian question that is of greatest interest to the new President. One of the journalists who interviewed him told me that Mr. Giscard d'Estaing had only one map in his office, a map of the Middle East, and that he used it to explain his point of view on the Palestinian question. He considers the Palestinians to be a nation and says that

*Americans could afford confrontation France could not*