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Mr. Trudeau reports support for contractual link with EEC

Prime Minister Trudeau stated in the House of Commons on March 17 that officials of the European Economic Community countries, with whom he had recently met, had all indicated support for Canada's aim of establishing a contractual link with the Common Market. "They gave support," he said, "to negotiations which are going on and the exchanges which are going on between the Community and Canada, one meeting already having taken place about a month ago in Ottawa and two more being scheduled before the report is made to the Council of Ministers."

Mr. Trudeau had just returned from Europe after a two-and-a-half week visit to five of the nine capitals of the EEC countries – The Hague, Bonn, Rome, London and Dublin. He also had an audience with Pope Paul.

In a speech at a luncheon given by the Lord Mayor of London on March 13, the Prime Minister described as follows the purpose of his trip:

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On this occasion, as last October, Lord Mayor, I am in Europe to meet with heads of government of member states of the European Economic Community. I have conveyed to each of them, as I did to the European Commission in Brussels, the desire of Canada to enter into a contractual relationship with the Community – one which would ensure that each of the Community and

Canada would keep the other informed, would engage regularly and effectively in consultations, would not consciously act to injure the other, would seek to co-operate in trading and any other activities in which the Community may engage.

We have described our goal as the attainment of a contractual link. Because we do not know – indeed Europe does not know – how far or how fast



Canadian Press wirephoto

Pope Paul VI shakes hands with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau in the Vatican City on March 7 during a

private audience. Mr. Trudeau was in Europe to meet with leaders of the European Economic Community.