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Western Summit to focus on key economic issues

The Western Economic Summit, to be held in Ottawa, July 20-21, will centre on major economic issues confronting Western nations, including inflation, international trade, energy and the North-South dialogue, said Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs A.E. Gottlieb in a speech to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs in Winnipeg, April 9. Mr. Gottlieb is Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's personal representative in preparation of the Ottawa Summit.

Excerpts from his speech, outlining further items for discussion at the Summit, follow:

...At this point, most of the Summit leaders are new (or re-elected). President Reagan, Prime Ministers Suzuki of Japan and Forlani of Italy have recently been chosen. President Thorn of the European Community Commission took office as of the beginning of 1981. German Chancellor Schmidt was re-elected last autumn and the French presidential elections take place this May.

Because so many leaders are new and since most can look forward to a considerable term of office, it is timely, perhaps essential, for leaders to reflect together on what their objectives are, which are the key issues facing the West, how these issues should be grappled with. They need to reaffirm their commitment to consultations, to avoid — to the degree possible — unpleasant surprises or unilateralism — especially given the uncertain outlook in such areas as money and finance, trade and protectionism.

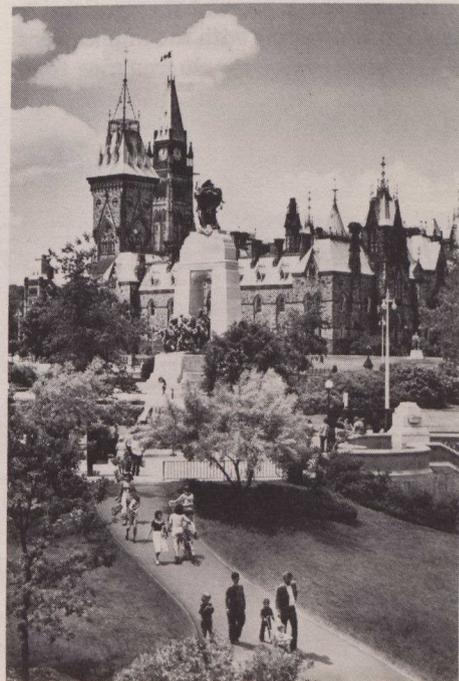
They may at some point want to go beyond that to set some kind of joint program, as they have to a degree already on energy, perhaps even to consider possible further arrangements to implement it, recognizing of course that they will need also to continue to work with their partners in existing international fora.

For our part in Canada, we attach a good deal of value to the Western Summits. They should continue to be available to do the sort of things they do now. From my perspective, the Summits could usefully go further, and begin to take what I shall call the macro-political approach. Somehow, I believe, we in the industrial world need a manageable locus for concerting our views and objectives,

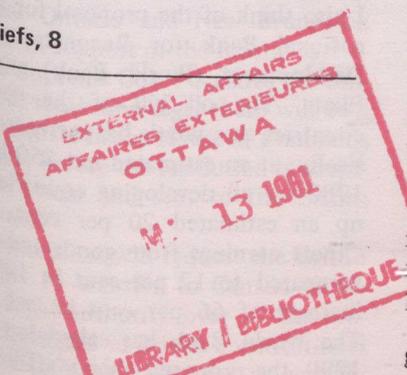
our policies and activities, on problems facing the West from the outside, as well as for getting our act together among the industrialized democracies.

Effective consultation

It is particularly important, from a Canadian point of view, that this kind of consultation and concertation be effectively taking place among our closest friends, since we are placed in a very delicate position in the case of persistent and major unresolved differences between, say, the United States and major European Com-



A summertime view of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the site of the next economic Summit.



One-hundred-and-eleven years ago this week... The Manitoba Act was passed by Parliament, May 12, 1870. The legislation, which was proclaimed July 15, provided the terms by which the province of Manitoba should enter the Dominion of Canada. The Act was the result of discussions between representatives of the provisional government of Louis Riel and the Prime Minister of Canada John A. Macdonald.

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