

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 63/4

## AN ERA OF FAR-REACHING CHANGE

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard C. Green, in the House of Commons on January 24, 1963.

Before I proceed ... may I express the belief that we have now moved into a new era in the world, largely because of certain developments which have taken place within the last few months or which will take place within the next few months, each one of which has very far-reaching implications. For example, there is the movement of Great Britain into the European Community. We all know it is not yet certain whether that move will be made; but, no matter whether it is or is not, what has happened in connection with that proposal as between Great Britain and the six countries of continental Europe is bound to have very far-reaching effects. In the last day or two, we have seen France and West Germany signing a treaty of friendship covering political questions, economic questions and defence questions. There is a great shifting going on in Europe, and no one can tell at this time what the end result will be.

That brings up another far-reaching development. I believe that in the Commonwealth at the present time we are in a state of flux. I had the privilege of attending the prime ministers' conference in September of last year, and naturally every one of the delegates there was very much interested in the question whether Great Britain would go into the European Community, and what the future of the Commonwealth was to be. Whether one thought that Great Britain should or should not go in, a great deal of thought was given to the future of the Commonwealth. I think the value of the Commonwealth was impressed upon the mind of everyone there, and I have no doubt on the minds of millions of people in the various nations of the Commonwealth.

### Trade Changes

Again in the field of trade, we are now in a period when very far-reaching changes may take place in the trade carried on in various parts of the world. That question, of course, was of great importance in connection with the British and European Community negotiations, but it is also important in many other spheres. I recall ... at this point the statement which was