

As the negotiations in Europe proceed, we shall be considering how our important contractual rights and obligations can be put into play most effectively. We shall also be reviewing the implications of EEC enlargement for Britain's preferential access to the Canadian market.

In the meantime, we shall use our influence in the GATT to maintain the momentum of trade liberalization efforts and press in particular for a major round of negotiations before the results of the enlargement negotiations are put into effect. We shall continue to urge the United States to provide, with the EEC and other major world traders, the leadership and support which is essential if these efforts are to succeed. We had the opportunity to discuss these matters recently with members of the United States Administration when the Joint Canada-United States Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs met on November 23 and 24 in Ottawa.

We shall have no illusions, however, that we can safely leave the protection of Canadian interests to others. As a major trading partner of Britain and a significant market for the EEC and the applicant countries, Canada is not without bargaining power. These countries all wish to do more business with us; we shall insist that the terms on which we trade are fair to us as well as to them.

It will continue to be a key objective of Canadian policy to intensify our trading relations with Europe as a whole. There will be adjustments to be made because of enlargement, but in view of the magnitude and variety of Europe's import needs there should be many opportunities there for Canadian trade. We must strive to gain a share of European markets, which is more in line with our role in world trade generally.

In Industry, Trade and Commerce, we have already been giving greater emphasis to this area in our departmental programs. One-third of the officer strength of our Trade Commissioner Service is now engaged in Europe. We are devoting more resources to trade fairs and missions in the European Economic Community. We are seeking to expand the framework for scientific and technological co-operation with a number of European countries. For example, following a science and technology mission to Belgium in June, we have drafted an agreement to facilitate this type of co-operation with that country.

In the first ten months of this year, our exports to the Community were 43 percent above those in the corresponding period of 1969. In 1970, the EEC will be, for the first time, a considerably more than \$1-billion market for Canadian goods.

Our activities in some of the countries which are or will be associated with the EEC are also being stepped up. For example, we have just had important discussions in Ottawa with a high-level delegation from Algeria. These talks have led, among other things, to the sale of from 850,000 to one million metric tons of wheat for delivery over the next four years.

We shall be continually seeking ways of improving the effectiveness of our trade-development activities in the EEC and associated countries. I hope that Canadian exporters will also ask themselves whether there is anything more they could do to expand their sales to this dynamic trading group.