

### Effects on Canada's Trade

I shall not attempt to give you a complete and detailed description of the effects on our trade which we could expect from British membership in the Common Market. I emphasize, however, that all sectors of our trade would be affected in one way or another. This is a serious prospect. This trade amounts to 17 percent of our total exports. It contributes substantially to prosperity and jobs in this country. These developments are important to Canada. We also recognize that they present important and difficult problems for Britain.

The British decision to initiate negotiations with The Six has not been an easy one to make. It was made after very serious consideration. They felt that Britain could not remain aloof, that Britain should share in Europe's growing prosperity and that Britain should be a partner in shaping the political future of Europe. In his statement at the opening of the negotiations with The Six, the responsible British Minister, Mr. Heath, said that this development "will effect profoundly the way of life, the political thought and even the character of each one of our peoples".

Last summer the British Government asked for our views. We gave our views because we wanted to ensure that Britain would have the fullest information on the implications for Canada and the rest of the Commonwealth. We never questioned Britain's right to make its own decision.

### Anglo-Canadian Consultation.

The British Government is now making every effort to protect Commonwealth interests in its negotiations with The Six. For our part, we intend to continue to let the British Government know how our interests might be affected by developments in the negotiations now taking place in Brussels. Only in this way can Britain at all times remain fully aware of all the factors which have to be taken into account in providing accommodation for Commonwealth interests.

Difficult negotiations lie ahead. It will not be easy to protect Canadian and Commonwealth interests.

This is true even with the opportunities for expanding trade which will be created by high levels of prosperity in Europe. We are not attempting to turn the clock back on the great developments in the pattern of world forces resulting from European integration. But these benefits will be ours only if the policies of the Common Market are conducive to greater trade.

Few countries have at stake such diversified interests as Canada. The decisions to be made in the months to come are of importance to all - to those who are helping to develop the natural resources of Canada, and to those who are building the