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Op
States, because the warm welcome and calm words they had received since their arrival in Ottawa bore eloquent testimony to that fact. According to their joint press release, the two groups of parliamentarians readily agreed that it would be opportune for the European Economic Community to establish a permanent delegation, or at least an information office, in Ottawa, both to provide Canadians with more information about EEC affairs and to provide liaison between the Brussels administration and Canadian Government circles. It would not, of course, encroach on the diplomatic representation functions of the embassies of the Nine. Sir Christopher Soames agreed that relations between the Commission and the Canadian Government had been too fortuitous and should be established on a regular basis, but he pointed out that the Commission had to obtain approval from the Council of Ministers of the EEC before opening permanent offices in Ottawa.

During a press conference, Mr. Soames said that, once the decision is taken by the member countries to launch a dialogue with Canada, relations between the Community's institutions and Canadian Government authorities could be superimposed on those of all kinds Canada has long maintained bilaterally with Community member states. However, he stated that these bilateral relations between countries remained the main instruments of the *rapprochement* between Canada and Europe that both parties deemed desirable.

Formal goals

Two other formal objectives in Ottawa's European diplomatic relations were apparently discussed during the Soames-Sharp talks, but on these no agreement on common action could be reached because the vice-president of the Commission could not commit the Community to them. These were the declaration of principles the Canadian Government would like to establish with Brussels to govern economic relations between Canada and Europe — a declaration that would naturally be different from the one the Community has already agreed to negotiate with the United States — and the still vague projected general agreement on co-operation the External Affairs Department would like eventually to conclude with the Nine.

But perhaps we should be even more pleased at the fact that the conversations of last November largely avoided the thorny trade question (the tariff adjustments Ottawa would like to obtain, the "moral debt" to Canada contracted by the



Britain's Sir Christopher Soames, a vice-president of the Commission of the European Community, led delegation in talks with Canadian cabinet ministers.

EEC as a result of its enlargement under the aegis of GATT, the possible modification of the preferential tariff arrangements Britain still enjoys on the Canadian market) to consider aspects of Canadian-European economic co-operation that are more promising because they have fewer roots in the past — the energy sector is an example. It is significant that the members of the European Parliament were interested in and curious about the Canadian nuclear reactor (the CANDU system), the availability of uranium and the development potential of Alberta's tar-sands.

The general theme of the conference organized by the CIAA, held the same weekend, was "Canada and the European Community". Sir Christopher Soames delivered the inaugural address, Mr. Sharp spoke as well, and the conference closed with a panel of journalists chaired by Jean-Luc Pepin, former Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The main events of the conference were four workshops, led mainly by officials from Brussels and Ottawa. In their three sessions they studied the following themes: trade and commerce, agriculture, industry and technology, resources and energy, and relations between Canada and Europe in general, considered in the context of the world as a whole.

It is deplorable that so few Quebecers and representatives of the Atlantic Provinces took part in the conference. According to the list distributed by the organizers, fewer than 30, or scarcely 18