

of protectionist pressures deriving from the difficult economic situation and high unemployment imposed an obligation to manage trade relations among industrialized countries with particular care and sensitivity. The importance of the GATT Ministerial Meeting and the results that would emerge therefrom was stressed.

The two delegations also reviewed recent developments in Canadian and EC policies in the areas of energy, shipping, GSP schemes and the process of EC renewal and reform under the 30 May Mandate. A variety of bilateral questions were addressed, such as Canadian import legislation, foreign investment regulations, provincial liquor board practices, questions of access to the European market for Canadian cheese and grain screenings, fisheries and the European Parliament resolution on seals.

The discussion on energy consisted largely of a review of Canadian and EC policy developments. The Canadian delegation pointed out that the proposals enumerated in the National Energy Programme in October 1981 had undergone some changes and that there were now two Bills before Parliament which would turn the main elements of the NEP into law. Considerable success has been achieved already on Canadianization. The foreign share of ownership in the energy sector has dropped from 70% to 66% in just over a year. This is mainly the result of private sector actions, the only public action being the purchase of Petrofina by Petrocan.

On fisheries questions the Canadian delegation emphasized that the Long Term Agreement on Fisheries was not working satisfactorily, and that pressure was quickly building up in Canada to have it terminated. Tariff quota allocations by the EC have disrupted patterns of Canadian trade in fish and have created considerable insecurity in the traditional UK market. Both sides agreed that the recent changes in exchange rates have affected Canadian trade. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at expert level within the next few months and a thorough review would be held in the autumn.

There was also mutual agreement on the need to cooperate constructively on arranging for an independent study of the facts of the seal hunt, and for this work to go forward as expeditiously as possible. Both sides emphasized the importance of this issue to their respective publics, and the need to remain in close contact.

The next round of high level consultations will take place in Ottawa during the autumn of 1982.

LA CONSTITUTION CANADIENNE

Lors d'une visite officielle à Ottawa le 17 avril, la reine Elisabeth a proclamé la nouvelle constitution du Canada. Jusqu'à ce jour, c'était le Parlement de Londres qui détenait le pouvoir d'amender la loi qui servait de constitution au Canada, agissant sur demande des autorités canadiennes. C'est en effet une loi britannique, l'Acte d'Amérique du Nord britannique, qui depuis 1867 faisait fonction de constitution écrite.

Dès le début du siècle, le Canada avait accédé à l'indépendance politique de la Grande-Bretagne. En 1926, la déclaration Balfour avait reconnu l'égalité des Dominions et du Royaume-Uni. Et en