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The parties agreed to begin exploratory talks in the near future on the nature and scope of negotiations intended to define the form and content of the relationship between them.

For this purpose, Canadian and Community officials have been instructed to schedule meetings without delay. In addition, the president of the Commission has agreed to visit Ottawa at an early date. I am also pleased that a full delegation office will be opened in Ottawa in 1975, of the same nature as those already operating in Washington and Tokyo.

I invite all Honourable Members to share in this process. Happily, an increased opportunity to do so will soon exist as a result of a further agreement reached last week. While in Paris, I was able to announce, with the approval of the French Government, that the Canadian Government would open a consulate general in Strasbourg. This office will permit a Canadian presence to be extended into an important region of France for the benefit of our commercial, cultural, information and immigration programs and for the extension of services to Canadian tourists and businessmen. It will also support an enhancement of present links between the Parliament of Canada and the Parliament of Europe, and with the Council of Europe. As Honourable Members are aware, the European Parliament is situated in Strasbourg, and is expected to perform an increasingly important role in the new European Community. I place great importance on such links and on the constructive contribution offered by Canadian Parliamentarians. Again and again, in Europe, I was told of the respect and the high reputation that delegations from this Parliament have earned through their hard work when abroad. It was my good fortune to be in Paris while one such delegation was present and note the great distinction with which it did its work.

I have already mentioned the presence in Paris and Brussels of several international bodies of considerable importance. I engaged in discussions with the principal officers of two of them -- Secretary-General Van Lennep of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and Secretary-General Luns of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization -- and gained from them assessments of the international situation as viewed from their special perspectives, as well as generous acknowledgements of the important contribution made by Canada to each. This opportunity extended, in the case of NATO, to a full working session with the North Atlantic Council in Brussels. I was able there to explore with the permanent representatives of the member countries the conceptions enshrined in the Ottawa Declaration of Atlantic Principles and to provide assurance that Canadian commitment to those principles remained

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