



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## A NEW LOOK AT CANADA AND EUROPE

Text of Speech by Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Consultative Assembly of the Western European Union, Paris, December 10, 1969.

I should like first to thank the Assembly for having invited us to send an observer to this session. I am delighted to have this opportunity of discussing, from the viewpoint of Canada's relations with Europe, the subjects you will be considering in terms of Europe's relations with the United States. Canada's views on co-operation with Europe and on European security can provide a supplementary contribution to the discussion. In a way, Canada constitutes an added dimension to the questions on the agenda, and I presume that it was with this in mind that your invitation was extended.

Geographical, historical and commercial factors, together with our political objectives, have created a broad variety of interests unique in the world for a country with Canada's population. Canada has access to three oceans: the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Arctic. We have a common border with the United States, and close relations with Europe; our acquaintance with Asian countries, especially Japan and soon, perhaps, the People's Republic of China, is developing very rapidly. We are making our presence felt more and more in both English-speaking and French-speaking Africa, and we are in the process of rediscovering Latin America, whose peoples share the same hemisphere with us.

This is the background against which our young country has achieved such rapid growth.

At this stage in its political life, Canada feels a need to pause, reconsider its objectives, and see whether its policies are still based on its own best interests and those of the international community - in other words, to review the premises on which its activities are founded, in order that they may reflect contemporary needs.

With this in mind, it is only natural that we should reconsider our relations with Europe.

A desire for co-operation based solely on good intentions is usually fruitless. In order to succeed, co-operation must meet real and specific needs. We must both define our positions and determine priorities in accordance with