

only with the United States but also with Canada.

In this context, what sort of role can Canada play? Clearly, we are not in the same league as either the United States or Europe. Although ours is the second largest country in the world, our sparse population of under 24 million and our vast distances impose limits on what we can do. Yet, we are not only an Atlantic power, we are also a Pacific power and an Arctic power. Economically, Canada is of major importance, particularly as a producer of many of the free world's critical raw materials. Strategically, Canada is of significance not only to the U.S. in the defence of North America but also to Western Europe in the protection of the vital Atlantic sea lanes. Canada's political significance should also not be underestimated, especially in the longer term.

It is obvious that as a North American country, Canada's relationship with the U.S. is of first importance. At the same time we have a long tradition of cooperation and understanding with Europe. This reflects the European origins of most of our people, as well as a common experience and participation in the events of this century which have created the Europe of today. But Canada's political significance is also demonstrated in our growing ties with the Third World, through our programmes of development assistance and our manifold ties in the Commonwealth and more recently *La Francophonie*. We have been a major partner in most of the United Nations peacekeeping and truce observation operations around the world. All these links have made us an *interlocuteur valable* for our friends in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

### Canadian role

Canada recognizes its strategic importance to the free world as well as the importance of Europe to Canada's security. Canada's full participation in NATO, both politically and militarily, remains a firm commitment. We regard the defence of Western Europe as our own first line of defence. In addition to the land and air forces stationed in West Germany, we have earmarked forces ready to contribute to the defence of the Northern flank and to the allied naval forces in the North Atlantic. We also receive German armoured troops for training in Manitoba and fighters of the German *Luftwaffe* have been moved to Labrador to undertake low-level flight training.

In economic terms, Canada offers a large and varied base of renewable and non-renewable resources as well as a relatively stable and secure environment for their exploitation. In addition to its strong agricultural and forest industries, Canada is a reliable and proven supplier of industrial and raw materials and a world leader in the production and export of non-ferrous metals. But Canada offers more than that. It also offers favourable opportunities for the further processing of such resources prior to export and for the development



Canadian Forces photo

*Canadian armoured personnel carrier rolls through a West German village during 1977 NATO training exercise.*

of other secondary industry. There is scope for combining European capital and technology with Canadian resources and manpower and, in increasing measure, our own technology. There is also scope for combining European concerns about security of supply with Canadian aspirations to upgrade our raw materials and find better access to foreign markets for the output of our processing and manufacturing industries.

For all these reasons Canada's contribution to Western solidarity, both actual and potential, should not be under-estimated. Canada is prepared to support a co-ordinated approach to the problems of the post-Afghanistan situation. We are ready to endorse such counter-measures (such as the boycott of the Moscow Olympics) as may be globally agreed on. We are ready to play a part in the continuing discussion of a diplomatic solution to the Afghanistan problem when the time is ripe. We are ready to make a contribution to supporting countries of the region like Pakistan and Turkey.

Looking further ahead, the time may well be near when we should be thinking in terms of a new kind of trans-Atlantic partnership designed to meet the challenges of the 1980s and 1990s, and based on a higher level of reciprocal interests, privileges and obligations. Such a partnership would be not only to the mutual advantage of Canada and Europe but also in the broader interest of solidarity and co-operation in the free world.