

The Commonwealth has not been regarded as an exclusive organization. Its members have many interests which are reflected in the non-Commonwealth groupings and organizations to which they belong. For example, we understand and appreciate Britain's desire to play its full part in Europe, and we have been most interested to have a first-hand account from Prime Minister Wilson of his recent discussions with leaders of The Six. The decision whether to apply is, of course, one for the British Government to make, in the light of all the relevant considerations.

It is only fair to point out that Canada has important political and economic interests in the kind of arrangements which Britain's membership in the Common Market might entail. We have had an opportunity of discussing these interests with British ministers during the last two days at the meeting of the Anglo-Canadian Committee. However, should Britain decide to seek entry, it would be possible to determine precisely what the effect upon trade between our two countries would be only when the terms for British entry were known. The outcome of the current "Kennedy round" of tariff negotiations is another relevant factor.

Although our geography gives us a somewhat different perspective, Canada has, like Britain, a considerable direct interest in development in the continent of Europe. Simply stated, our interest lies in a stable Europe, whose internal difficulties do not constitute a threat to the peace of the world. Ultimately, this will require, among other things, a German peace settlement and an end to the present division of Europe.

Apart from the vital questions of international peace and security, Canada also has interests in Europe arising from the fact that it is the source of so much of Canada's cultural heritage. In this respect, I think particularly of France, a country which is recognized by Canadians, like Britain, as one of our founding nations.

Sharing as it does in the great traditions of French language and culture, Canada is determined to play its full part in the development of these special ties among the French-speaking countries of the world. In this endeavour, we are guided by considerations related to those which determine our attitude towards the Commonwealth, we seek to preserve, deepen and apply, to the broad purposes of our external policy, traditional attitudes which are particularly meaningful to Canadians. It may well be that the experience, particularly in the cultural field, which we have gained in the Commonwealth will be of use in developing these new Canadian interests in relations with the French-speaking countries. The institutions which give continuous practical expression to the Commonwealth, such as the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, can perhaps serve as examples of ways in which the bonds between French-speaking countries can be strengthened. Indeed, plans are already being made to hold a meeting of parliamentarians from French-speaking countries. In this way, Canada believes that its relations with the Commonwealth and with the French-speaking world can enrich and strengthen each other.