

economic and material wealth, alongside Canada as a smaller but important country.

In the course of my remarks in the Consultative Assembly, speaking in French, I said:

[*Translation*]

In Canada, we followed with interest and admiration the efforts made by European countries to develop greater unity. That movement took various forms; it had its ups and downs. Nevertheless, we notice that the term "European unity" reflects a powerful idea which corresponds to your need for organizing yourselves on a European scale, while maintaining your national diversities. Whatever the eventual organization of Europe, it is obvious that the movement towards unity had and will have deep effects on the evolution of your continent and on its relations with the outside world.

For Canada, I added, engaged in building also a new unity and an identity that are significant in the present world, the evolution of Europe presents problems but, at the same time, offers fascinating opportunities.

In this regard, I am still under the spell of the prophetic words uttered by Victor Hugo in his opening speech at the Peace Congress, held in Paris in 1849, and that were read to us at a splendid concert offered to us by the City of Strasbourg Monday evening. These are Victor Hugo's words:

Some day, we will see those two great nations, the United States of America and the United States of Europe, facing each other and extending their hands across the sea, trading their products, their business, their industries, their arts, their engineering, opening up the world, improving creation under the very eyes of the Creator and binding together, for the welfare of all, those two eternal forces: human brotherhood and the power of the Lord.

What a vision! I suggested that writing these words 120 years ago showed remarkable faith, extraordinary confidence in the future, that should continue to inspire us all.

But, I do not doubt that this vision leads us to ask ourselves this question: what is, for us, Canadians, the role of Canada in this exchange? Without being reproachful, may I point out that Victor

Hugo did not think about Canada that did not exist at the time.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the historic situation is completely different. The United States of America exist and, as Mr. Toncic said, they represent for us, Europeans, a valuable partner and, in some respects, a challenge that inspires us.

Canada, which cannot accept to be excluded from that dialogue, is looking for an alternative to the prospect of being assimilated to the American block.

This is why it is so important for us that a personal dialogue should develop between Europe and Canada, a dialogue taking into account the needs and aspirations of both sides. I am convinced that the possibility of closer co-operation will become a reality because we share, on both sides, not only the western inheritance and democratic tradition, but also an important community of long-term interests. What you are doing here helps to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in Europe as well as to improve the balance within the Atlantic world. It also helps us, Canadians, to bring to our foreign relations some balance which could compensate the benevolent but invading influence of the United States.

For my country, Canada, a bilingual and bicultural country, the cultural and technical contributions of Europe are precious and they help us build a unique North American society, as Mr. Toncic indicated.

On the other hand, Canada which is an economic and industrial power with an international vocation, could also be a valid partner for Europe.

To take advantage of those opportunities, there must be a maximum use of the existing channels of consultation and co-operation as they exist in the O.E.C.D. and NATO.

Perhaps new ones should be set up; they could pave the way to a closer relationship between Europe and Canada. We should also explore means to enhance the contribution of both sides to specific projects of common interest.

Co-operation between Europe and Canada is sure to come, especially within the assistance and development committee of the O.E.C.D. where the programs are co-ordinated, the findings examined, the amount and distribution of subsidies determined. Such co-operation should be