

Moselle Canal to bring Ruhr coal to French steel mills. It was hoped that working together on the "construction of Europe" would make it easier for France and Germany to resolve such problems - and this did in fact turn out to be the case.

There were, however, other situations where political factors impeded economic integration. Austria, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden could not join the Community because of their status as neutrals. (Some of them also had economic inhibitions). In the mid-fifties, Britain still saw itself as a world-scale power and was not interested in joining an exclusively European trade grouping which would weaken its ties with the Commonwealth and the United States. Spain's internal regime was, for years, an obstacle to association with or membership in the Community.

Domestic political considerations entered in, too, at times. The left wing of the Labour Party in Britain was concerned that joining the Community would make it more difficult to maintain full employment and lead to pressures to water down the welfare state and hold off on further extension of public ownership. Thus, although it was a Labour Government that made the second, unsuccessful, bid to join the EEC, the party became distinctly ambivalent about membership when in opposition from 1970 to 1974. It called for a fundamental renegotiation of the terms of entry and a referendum to consult the British public. (It was suggested that joining without either a general election or referendum was somehow illegal and unconstitutional). The minority Labour Government returned to power in 1974 found itself stuck with carrying out this policy. It entered into a rather modest renegotiation which did not require amendment of the Treaty of Accession, the main feature being an adjustment of Britain's financial contribution. A consultative referendum was then called and the Cabinet recommended a vote in favour of continued membership (although more than half of the Labour M.P.s took the other side). The vote went 2 to 1 for staying in the EEC. Labour went into opposition again in 1979 and moved sharply to the left. It called for Britain's withdrawal from the Community in the 1983 election. With the Party now running ahead of the Conservatives in the public opinion polls some uncertainty has once again arisen about Britain's continued role in the Community. In addition to those on the left, there are a few anti-Marketees on the right. Their hostility to the EEC is based on a variety of things, ranging from imperial nostalgia to concern about changes in the traditional British way of life.

### Miscalculations

To determine where they fitted into the process of European economic integration, therefore, countries had to weigh a complex set of considerations, political as well as economic. Inevitably mistakes were made and it is easy to see