

accordingly, been declared until 1980 on landing rights for foreign airlines. It applies to SAS and all other airlines that have not yet negotiated an agreement. In view of Denmark's strong interest in the matter, however, it has been agreed that negotiations will continue among the airline companies.

But disagreements between Canada and Denmark must be viewed against a background of political co-operation, until quite recently, within the Atlantic Alliance. The same background includes several years of a community of interests in the Arctic. For both countries this is a factor of basic solidarity that enables temporary conflicts to be bypassed without too much difficulty and explains the other aspects of the relations between Denmark and Canada. During the coming years, and without diminishing the importance of the Atlantic Alliance — as well as Denmark's presence in the EEC — as a factor for *rapprochement* between the two countries, the Arctic will increasingly occupy the central role in Canada-Denmark relations.

Several signs point in this direction. Apart from the new strategic significance of the Arctic already mentioned, the responsibility of the two countries for the exploration and development of natural resources in this area will lead them to co-operate more systematically. This co-operation has already begun. It took the form of an agreement in December 1973 concerning the delimitation of the continental shelf between Greenland and Canada, and also of an exchange of scientists and the transmission of various types of information. For example, the results of the oceanographic research now being carried out on the west coast of Greenland by the *Lady Johnson II* will be communicated to Danish research teams, as are the data accumulated on Greenland by the Canada Centre for Remote-Sensing *via* the LANDSAT satellite. Moreover, researchers in both countries are planning a joint research project on the polar continental shelf.

The development of oil-exploration, which has already been started along the Greenland coasts by both Canada and Denmark, also raises the question of environmental protection. Joint measures must be considered to regulate shipping and deal with emergencies.

Greenland

But in the immediate future it is the problem of the status of Greenland that is of primary concern to both nations. By a 1953 amendment to the Danish Constitution, Greenland became an integral part of Denmark, the citizens of both territories having

thenceforth equal rights. By gaining the opportunity of taking part in general elections, the Greenlanders became aware of their peculiar problems and of the means at their disposal for influencing the policies that most affected them. At the same time, this change of status led to large-scale Danish immigration, which has since modified Greenland's political and social character. In 1965, for instance, 52 per cent of Greenland's revenue went to an 11 per cent minority born outside Greenland. Claims for greater equality were therefore inevitable. Two parties confronted one another on this question: those in favour of greater equality achieved by increasing Greenland's Danish character (known as the "Conservative Greenlanders") and the "Radical Greenlanders" who promote the "Greenlandification" of the territory. This debate could only lead, however, to a still clearer affirmation of the identity and heritage of Greenlanders.

The Danish Government, whose international policy made it impossible for the country to be accused of colonialism in Greenland, set up a committee to study the question in January 1973. This "Home Rule Committee" submitted a preliminary report in 1975 in which it recommended that the *Landsrat* should be responsible for the internal administration of the territory and should possess real legislative powers for this purpose. The Committee had ruled out the possibility of Greenland's complete independence in the immediate future, but did not reject it as a distant objective. On a short-term basis, foreign policy, defence, the police, health and communications would be administered jointly with Denmark and financed by the latter. The *Landsrat* would assume immediate responsibility for economic development, education, cultural affairs, and hunting and fishing in territorial waters, tourism, criminal law and control of mines and resources. Home rule will come into effect on April 1, 1979.

Though favourable in principle to "devolution," the Danish Government is anxious to control the development of mining and oil resources, as well as certain renewable resources such as fishing, that it considers necessary for its own economic development and for the financing of home rule. For its part, the *Landsrat*, by a unanimous resolution adopted in the fall of 1975, claims exclusive ownership of all resources of the subsoil for the benefit of the permanent population of Greenland.

This conflict, whose progress concerns Canada in various ways, especially from the strategic and economic points of view (there is a Canadian company established in Greenland), must also be seen within the