

interpretation and implementation which remain to be answered - but the approach recalls responses to earlier international crossroads: the Atlantic Charter, the Marshall Plan and the Canadian efforts when NATO was born to give the Alliance political and economic as well as military significance. The Canadian Government has underlined on several occasions the inevitable interaction between developments on the economic and political fronts. While we continue to believe that consultations and negotiations on economic issues should take place in the appropriate multilateral bodies, we would agree with Dr. Kissinger that the broader association we have as members of the NATO Alliance provides a convenient forum for developing a measure of political understanding on the broader perspectives of our individual national policies. I have myself used the NATO forum on several occasions to make this point. The importance of the trading relationships between Europe, Japan, Canada and the USA as well as the needs of the developing countries will all be prime issues at the negotiations in the new GATT round starting this year. They will also receive attention in the continuing discussions in the OECD in Paris where the countries mentioned by Dr. Kissinger are well represented. Canada's participation in and support for these efforts to liberalize trade has been steadfast and unreserved. We agree that NATO should continue to function as an instrument of collective defence. Like the United States we see NATO's collective strength and the present situation of strategic parity as opportunities for developing a basis for political détente with Eastern Europe.

Thus I can assure our friends to the South that the Canadian Government views Dr. Kissinger's speech in its broad outline as a welcome reaffirmation and redefinition of an outward looking and responsible American foreign policy.

But looking at it from a Canadian perspective, as I must do, there is a potentially disturbing feature, and this may be as much a feature of our polarizing world as of Dr. Kissinger's address. And that is: where do Canadians fit into the developing pattern? Dr. Kissinger has identified three main power centres in the non-Communist world - the United States, Europe and Japan. While we have no illusions about being declared a fourth power centre we think we have a distinctive contribution to make and we don't want to be polarized around any of the main power centres.

We can take some comfort from the fact that in his speech, Dr. Kissinger called on Canada along with Europe and, ultimately, Japan to join the United States in working out a new Atlantic Charter. To that call I have no hesitation in saying we will respond most willingly, the more so because it is within such a framework that Canada will have the best chance of avoiding polarization and of achieving the diversity in our economic, cultural and political relations that is fundamental to the strengthening of the Canadian identity.

This is exactly the sort of issue which I would like to see fully and vigorously debated by the press. We will need clear heads and wise judgements as this debate proceeds - and the press has an important contribution to make.