

*Minister's Statement on Visit to Europe*

Canada and the other great trading entities—the European community, the United States and Japan—as well as among these entities themselves, will assume even greater significance for us and for them. It will be a different trading world.

● (2:30 p.m.)

I believe I am justified in saying that the Canadian concerns are fully understood in Europe and that the response has been positive, principally because our fundamental attitude to European unity has been constructive. We shall continue to press our case on every suitable occasion during the months ahead when crucial decisions are to be made.

While in Brussels, I signed, on behalf of Canada, an agreement for scientific and technological co-operation with Belgium. This agreement will facilitate and encourage expansion of scientific industrial and technological co-operation between our countries. The agreement illustrates how Canada is broadening the scope of its relations with Europe, one of our major policy objectives, as identified in the government's foreign policy review.

While in Rome, I was received in audience by the Pope. Our discussion ranged over the troubled areas of the world and concentrated upon the Middle East, which is one of His Holiness' gravest concerns. The Pope recalled with pleasure a visit he paid to Canada some 20 years ago, and the expression of his warm sentiments for this country brought to mind the thoughtful comment he made in 1969 when he said that the forces uniting Canadians seemed to him stronger than the forces that tend to divide us.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I must begin by welcoming back the minister. It has become my pleasant and frequent duty to welcome him back from very extensive and sometimes exotic tours abroad. This time he was in an exalted role in which he was an escort to vice-royalty, to dukes, duchesses, kings and grand duchesses. How many of us commoners have such a role cast upon us, to walk with kings and sup with queens.

I see in this morning's *Globe and Mail* that the minister is cast in the mantle of Sir Walter Raleigh. I would not presume to comment upon the courtier's function—I would not know it—but I must caution the minister to recall that Raleigh is not a very good model for a politician. That attendant knight had a political career which was something less than glorious. He spent much of his time forecasting discoveries, inventions and achievements which never came to pass. He pursued many goals which he never did attain. He was often away from home and, worst of all, ran afoul of the personage who held the political realm at bay and he spent many years in the Tower devoid of influence, power and freedom. I have no reference to the erstwhile Minister of Communications!

Of course this was a most important visit. I believe that the current pilgrimages to Europe are efforts by the government to overcome some of the ill effects of the government's own recent policies toward Europe. We have, I fear, given Europe a lower priority, and I am afraid we are being taken less seriously by Europe as a

[Mr. Sharp.]

result. In its preoccupation with other ventures the government appears almost to be taken by surprise at the tremendous developments now taking place in western Europe. It should not surprise anyone that Britain is interested in moving into the ECM. This is not something which took place yesterday. It was some months ago that the government in its contemporary wisdom decided to downgrade our NATO role and diminish our interest in the Commonwealth and especially in the senior member of the commonwealth, Britain, but now we are rudely awakened to the impact of a much larger and more closely integrated European community.

In the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence the other day we were told by a distinguished witness in the international field that the great danger facing Canada today was not that of being taken over but of being left out in light of the many important and massive trade relationships which are being built up. I wonder—and I express this with great concern and anxiety—if the Canadian economy is in any way prepared for the developments which will take place when the United Kingdom enters the European Common Market. The Canadian economy is in a very precarious position because not sufficient was done before. The minister is quite right when he says that in the future there will be a different trading world. Will it be a world for which Canada is prepared and in which Canada will play a prosperous and useful part? This is the essential question. Western Europe is still an area of vital concern and profound interest to this country and no flirtations with other deviations and developments of frills in foreign policy will ever blot out that fact.

I notice that the minister had an audience with His Holiness the Pope. I had that great honour a year ago. At that time too the Holy Father expressed his interest in the Middle East and his grave concern about the trouble in that part of the world. I read in the European press that the Holy Father expressed the hope that Canada might play a more important and more valuable role in the Middle East. I would say that the minister might well be urged to follow the advice and suggestion of His Holiness the Pope because we cannot, should not and dare not evade our responsibilities in the Middle East, that tense, troubled and explosive spot.

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I too should like to join with my colleague in welcoming back the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am quite sure that during his visit to Europe he probably used his very considerable persuasive powers to convince the Economic Community that Canada must have some entry into that organization. However, what disturbs me about the minister's statement is that obviously he has returned emptyhanded without any encouragement and hope for a relationship with the European Economic Community, and the rather Pollyanna, head-in-the-sand attitude he has regarding our future prospects. While I appreciate the efforts the Secretary of State for External Affairs is making in terms of pressing our case on the members of the EEC, it is quite obvious that we are not in a strong position in terms of getting concessions in that market. What is imperative at the moment is that Canada frame