



Bulletin

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MR. SHARP'S VISIT TO EUROPE

During his recent visit to Europe, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, took part in discussions with Government leaders in Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands, talked to senior officers of the European Economic Community and participated in the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels.

In a statement to the House of Commons on December 9, Mr. Sharp described his visit as follows:

...The six nations that today make up the Common Market are expected soon to become ten. Varying forms of association will bind other European countries to the Community. Preferential arrangements have been and will be made for a number of Mediterranean countries and some developing countries in Africa.

The mood in Europe is one of buoyancy and confidence. The horizons of the Common Market are broadening at a time when the will to bring about a deepening of the relationships within it is increasing.

The Government has been following these developments with the closest attention for some time. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has recently tabled in the House a paper outlining their

implications for Canada in the light of his own findings in European capitals. I made it the main purpose of my bilateral talks with the Governments I visited and with the Community to emphasize certain concerns that Canada has in the face of these developments. My first concern was with the disruption and shifts in Canada's trading patterns that would necessarily arise from Britain joining the Common Market. The second was to make the Community and individual members aware that Canada intends to take increasing advantage of the enlarged EEC as a major market not only for our raw and semi-processed materials but for the finished products of our secondary industries. My third purpose was to impress upon those I visited to the political as well as economic dangers inherent in any tendency towards trade polarization between the United States and the European Community.

It will be recalled that the formation of the European Economic Community was accomplished by the negotiation of the Kennedy Round. At that time, Europe and the world moved together in harmony in what was a most impressive advance towards freer trade. Today there is little evidence of this kind of harmonious relationship, indeed quite the contrary.

My discussions in Europe came as a logical consequence to the meetings we had in Ottawa two weeks ago with the senior members of the American Administration, led by Secretary Rogers. The same points were made to the United States representatives here in Ottawa, to the British Government in London and those I met on the Continent.

NATO MEETING

The timing of my visit to Europe was determined by the NATO December ministerial meeting. In the course of my statement there, I said that the developments in the last year suggest that we may have reached a turning point in East-West relations in Europe. The sterile confrontation that has characterized these relations since the end of the Second

CONTENTS

Mr. Sharp's Visit to Europe	1
Air Bath Invention	3
New Nickel Mine	3
Toy-Safety Regulations	4
A Grain of Salt	4
Family Planning Grant	5
Manic Giant No. 3	5
Spending Spree Foreseen	5
Stratford Report	6
Population Estimates	6