



Statements and Speeches

No. 78/3

CANADA STRENGTHENS ITS TIES WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

A Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, at the Opening of the Second Meeting of the Canada/European Community Joint Co-operation Committee, Ottawa, March 8, 1978.

Mr President,

Two of the fundamental features of our contemporary world are interdependence and the impact of technology. Technology has shown us how small and how fragile is this planet of ours. Similarly, our dependence on each other has been dramatically demonstrated on numerous occasions. The security and the prosperity of nations are intricately interwoven. Major economic shocks in one part of the world have impact upon all of us. To manage the problems and challenges of interdependence and advance our mutual interests and well-being, international co-operative endeavours are essential. Because of the place of the Community and Canada among the industrially-advanced of the world (we are the second and sixth economic entities in the world with respect to gross production), we share an overriding interest in the health of the global economy. It is thus essential that our efforts in the leading economic councils of the world reinforce the greater prosperity of the international community and point the way towards solutions to the economic problems to which none of us are immune. To do less would be to risk the well-being of us all, given the present difficult world economic climate.

But our multilateral efforts should not obscure the importance and opportunities that our efforts in bilateral co-operation promise. We are here today to continue these efforts and to give them further impetus.

Economics alone does not explain the strong desire of Canadians to retain and strengthen our ties with your Community. The depth and range of our historic bonds are well known. This sense of shared experience and spirit gives rise to a special feeling of affinity between Canada and the Community. As bystanders, we have watched attentively the construction of Europe. From its simple beginnings in the form of commercial arrangements among a few, it has evolved into the "Community of Nine", with its own institutions, its common policies and its prospects of both further enlargement and greater unity.

This special sense of affinity and our mutual desire that our relations should take account of the evolution of the Community and the shared challenges of the 1970s led logically, I suggest, to the undertakings we entered into in July 1976 to deepen and diversify our economic relations, undertakings that were reaffirmed at the first session of this committee in December 1976.

Today, for the first time, we are trying to draw up the official balance-sheet for the
