

should diversify our interests and deepen our relations with other countries, especially with those that, by virtue of their own power, could help to serve as counterweights to the pull of the United States. Canada does not have global responsibilities in the same sense as the United States, but we do have world-wide interests and a growing capacity and need to promote these interests. We have, accordingly, sought to strengthen Canada's relations, particularly with Europe and Japan.

There have been substantial contacts between Canadian and Japanese political leaders and officials across a wide range of fields -- agriculture, science and technology, atomic power, minerals and energy. In 1973-74, our foreign ministers met twice, while in 1974 our prime ministers met in Paris and in Ottawa. The objective of all these activities was set out in the communiqué issued at the end of the last prime ministerial meeting in Ottawa in September. The prime ministers agreed that "Japan and Canada would make constant efforts to cultivate, expand and enrich further their co-operative relationship in political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological and other diverse fields, thereby placing the relationship on an even broader and deeper basis".

Europe is the other principal centre of gravity with which Canada hopes to strengthen relations. A concerted effort is being made to develop relations with the member countries of the (European) Community and also with the Community as a distinct entity. Since 1972, there have been many exchanges at all levels between Canada, the Community and its member countries. These culminated in the visit of Prime Minister Trudeau to Paris and Brussels in October 1974. He will be returning to other European capitals in March of this year. One objective is to broaden and deepen our bilateral relations in as many fields as possible with these countries. Another objective is to negotiate some form of contractual link between Canada and the Community. For our part, such an arrangement would constitute recognition of Canada as a distinct political, economic and social entity in North America. Links with the Community having a potential for development would help greatly to meet our objective of diversifying our involvement abroad.

But, having said all this, I must insist on one central point: our effort to diversify our relations means that we seek not to supplant but to supplement relations with the United States. Indeed, it is obvious that relations with the United States will remain the most important that this country possesses. Our purpose is to strengthen Canada in order to create a more balanced, a more reciprocal and thus a healthier relationship between two independent partners.

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