

Soviet Union is under consideration and similar agreements are contemplated with other countries. In the meantime, Canada is seeking to extend to Eastern Europe exchanges, tours and exhibits of Canadian origin which are taking place in Western Europe.

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Canada has a large stake in Europe, the only area outside North America where the major themes of Canadian policy converge. Trade and financial relations with Europe are of substantial importance to Canada's own economic growth and to a maintenance of a stable and prosperous international community. Co-operation with like-minded countries in Europe will continue to be an essential factor in the success of international ventures aimed at world order, social justice and environmental improvements. Scientific, technological and cultural relations with the highly-developed countries of Western Europe influence the quality of life in Canada and help to strengthen its independence, unity and identity. The security of Europe is vital to the maintenance of global peace and security.

Canada can best pursue these objectives in association with friends and allies. For historical reasons Canadians look to the countries of Europe for cultural inspiration and support. The predominant influence of the American economy on Canada's trade underlines the importance of economic relations with trading partners in Europe. Aware of fundamental changes both in Europe and Canada, the Government is determining its objectives and priorities in the terms of these realities.

Close association with Europe will continue to offer scope for diversifying Canada's external relations and will place Canada in a stronger position to influence European and United States policies. The trends in the Atlantic area are away from the counterbalancing interdependence which benefited Canada in the past and the prospects of attaining an Atlantic Community have diminished accordingly. Canada still requires the diversification of relationships it has historically needed to safeguard its national interests. The dynamic changes in the new Europe present challenges but also opportunities which Canada will seek to enlarge, in developing its bilateral and multilateral relations with the countries of Europe.