

I could also talk to you almost interminably about Canada's relations with the European Economic Community and what is now starting to develop there as a result of the achievement of the contractual link with the Community. Here, once again, I will simply say that I'm leaving for Brussels later this evening, being there next week for the NATO meetings, but simultaneously attending the opening of the first working session of the Canadian/European Economic Community group. And we have high hopes for this new relationship, but they are hopes that are tempered by reality and which, I have to say, I believe could probably take some time to blossom into the full-fledged kinds of relationship that each side would hope would develop as a result of this unique situation which has come about through the contractual link.

And the Community has many problems of its own, and particularly in terms of additional trading relationships with Canada and developing our economic and financial relations, it is not something which is going to emerge full-blown from the first working meeting. But I think the real achievement here -- for those of us who are interested in international affairs -- is that the European Community, having been established now and having acquired an on-going life which I think, despite precarious adventures which may lie ahead for it, will nevertheless continue, but that community having been established, Canada now has a forum in which it will be possible for us -- which was not the case before -- to come together with those who are making the decisions in Europe and to let them know of Canada's concerns and interests and to have a formalized mechanism through which these observations, these comments back and forth, can be translated first of all into a better mutual understanding and secondly, and probably more important, into increased trade and a closer political kind of alliance that is, in my judgement, essential in the kind of shrinking continent and shrinking world in which we are living.

But I repeat, that is not the subject on which I wish to spend most of my time this evening.

I do want to say a particular word at the outset about Canada's foreign policy in broad terms. The gentleman whom I've mentioned already, as well as many others, laboured over a very long period of time -- a longer period of time even than the forty-six to forty-seven years of the life of this organization -- to evolve for Canada a posture which was different, in the sense that it was Canadian, and which increasingly over time has come to reflect the aspirations, the wishes and the general attitude of the people of this country. And, of course, I suppose there was no greater architect I think we can all say, of that Canadian foreign policy than Mr. Pearson, with whom Mr. Ignatieff worked in the early days of the United Nations. And today we have a foreign policy which I've seen described on many occasions as basically the extension of Canada's domestic policy to the world; in other words, that my responsibility and that of the many thousands who work with me, is to take Canadian goals and objectives and, through foreign policy initiatives and developments, to use