

Thirdly, I should also mention as relevant and valuable the enhanced prospects of co-operation between the EC and Canada in a variety of fields involving their economic relations. I have in mind co-operation in such areas as consumer protection, corporation laws, scientific research and development. Some of the things we do in these fields are of interest to the Community and, reciprocally, the Community projects can be profitable to us. There may be occasions for participation in programs under way in Canada or in the Community and for joint EC-Canada projects with clear economic and commercial implications for both sides. The agreement in question is our pass, our title, to approach and deal with the Community on a better basis than we should be able to do without it. This is another advantage to be derived from the agreement that is not theoretical but practical, that can have important monetary and economic consequences.

Outsiders

In all this, it should be remembered that, unlike what happens in most other organizations (such as, say, NATO or the OECD or the IMF), we are not a member of the Community, we are not insiders, we do not sit at the tables where issues are debated and decisions taken. We are following developments as observers and seek to influence decisions as best we can from the outside. And we are not alone in this situation. Dozens of other countries are with us at the ring-side, competing for attention, for consideration. A contractual link that commits this big and complicated outfit to bear Canada in mind especially opens prospects, expands opportunities to find out what is happening "inside" and to promote more effectively Canadian interests. Community decisions in areas where it has jurisdiction — tariffs, for instance — can affect, and very directly, Canadian commercial prospects. In such circumstances, a private key is indeed very valuable.

It is worth while recalling here that the agreement provides for a Joint Co-operation Committee to meet regularly to carry out the purposes of the agreement. There may be subcommittees or other bodies established as well. Article IV, which institutes this committee, reads as follows:

A Joint Co-operation Committee shall be set up to promote and keep under review the various commercial and economic co-operation activities envisaged between Canada and the Communities. Consultations shall be held in the Committee at an appropriate level in order

to facilitate the implementation and to further the general aims of the present Agreement. The Committee will normally meet at least once a year. Special meetings of the Committee shall be held at the request of either Party. Subcommittees shall be constituted where appropriate in order to assist the Committee in the performance of its tasks.

The idea is not to provide a structure for its own sake, but to develop a flexible, workable mechanism, which will be as concrete and practical as possible, to search out and facilitate specific projects of interest to both sides. The exact techniques have not been worked out yet and can, in any event, be expected to evolve. But we expect to look at resource-related industrial sectors, at advanced-technology-related industrial projects, at financing, and at any other aspect that requires attention to help industrialists, businessmen and financiers to broaden and deepen the exchanges to our mutual benefit.

Flexible and workable mechanism

Evolutionary clause

The contractual link also has an evolutionary clause. If and as the Community expands, in areas such as energy or transport and other fields that may be assigned to it in the future, we are already, so to speak, plugged in, on the ground-floor, with guaranteed access to find out what is happening, how we may be affected, and in a position to discuss with the Community how we can protect and promote our national as well as our bilateral interests. As a result of the agreement, we have not only supplemented, at the Community level, our important and continuing relations with member countries individually but have ensured that we shall leave no gap in the present or in the future in securing an enhanced relationship with the totality of the governmental arrangements in Western Europe that can affect our policies.

Ensured no gap will be left

Perhaps I have been too close to the Community and to the agreement; I may well be prejudiced and see benefits that a more detached observer would not perceive or would evaluate differently. Allowing for this factor, and also, possibly, for the diplomat's "pactomania", I remain convinced that the agreement signed on July 6 last with the Community is not only politically significant but useful and substantial in a variety of practical ways having economic, financial and commercial implications it would be wrong to underestimate, even if, in the very nature of things, some of them cannot, or cannot yet, be quantified with numerical accuracy.