

*Canada needs
closer ties
with countries
of Nordic Council*

It is to be regretted that Canada has not developed closer ties with Sweden. This comment applies equally to the member countries of the Nordic Council (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland). These countries are actually closest to Canada in terms of climatic conditions and geography in general. They have succeeded equally in many fields in being in the forefront of social organization. In housing, transportation, education, care for the elderly and the sick, and labour relations, these countries are, generally speaking, the most advanced qualitatively in the world.

The former Social Democrat Prime Minister of Sweden, Olaf Palme, had personal ties with Canadian leaders and a solid knowledge of Canadian problems. The new middle-class government does not seem, for the moment at any rate, to have modified the broad outlines of Sweden's

foreign policy. Nor does it seem that the Swedish attitude towards Canada has been modified either. Relations established with former government officials should be supplemented by relations with a new team, some members of which have already visited Canada in their capacity as members of parliament. With its greater knowledge of Canada by Swedish officials, the two countries could develop co-operative projects other than those that exist at present — for example, in the field of military equipment.

Swiss investments

Economic relations with Switzerland are of an importance proportionate to the size of the country. Swiss investments in Canada are substantial; one need only mention Nestlé, Hoffman-La Roche, Geigy, Sandoz or Brown-Boveri, as well as the Swiss insurance companies, to realize the

Canada looks at Europe

The vast majority of Canadians favour closer links between Canada and the European Community ("Common Market"). According to a survey carried out by Le Centre de Sondage de l'Université de Montréal and le Centre d'Études et de Documentation Européennes, 86 per cent of the 1,433 persons questioned in 23 urban centres across Canada approved of a *rapprochement* between Canada and Europe; however, many lacked detailed knowledge of European institutions.

Although there were notable gaps in their knowledge of EC institutions, 83 per cent of those interviewed felt that the European Community had benefited all its members and 62 per cent would deplore its dissolution. Most of the respondents perceived the main goals of the Community to be of an economic rather than of a political nature. Of those polled, 80 per cent realized that, although the EC had established a common agricultural policy, it had not yet realized political union; 65 per cent of those interviewed were aware of the customs agreement among The Nine, but only 51 per cent knew that the Community did not yet have a common economic and monetary policy.

Many answers underlined the importance to Canada of its relations with Europe. For example, 79 per cent of Canadians considered relations with Europe to be "very important"; 79 per cent of them saw those relations as having intensified over the past years; 49 per cent expressed some sentimental attachment to one or more European countries.

Canadian perceptions of the importance of relations with Europe were also indicated by the fact that 86 per cent of respondents approved of Canadian participation in NATO. On the other hand, one-third had doubts about the efficiency of the Alliance and expressed reservations about Canadian military commitments to Europe in the event of war.

The survey suggests that Canadians are generally quite realistic and clear-headed in their appreciation of international relations and that they tend to think about them in terms of Canadian economic realities. Opinions were divided about the usefulness of the Prime Minister's visits to Europe in 1974 and 1975; 53 per cent saw these visits as useful in furthering economic ties, while the remainder expressed a more critical view. Half the respondents were fully aware of