
Commission that exploratory talks would be held aimed at defining the form and content of a contractual relationship which might be negotiated in due course. The main documents indicating the development of the Canadian initiative directed towards the Nine were tabled in the House of Commons on November 5.

This closer relationship which Canada sought with the European Community was paralleled, to a degree, by efforts to develop closer relations with the Community's individual members. At the same time there was growing bilateral co-operation with non-Community members and co-operation with the nations of Europe within the UN Economic Commission for Europe, of which Canada had become a full member in July 1973. Canada since that time has taken its place as an active member seeking to become familiar with the activities of this organization.

In June Canada was host to its NATO allies at the spring ministerial meeting in Ottawa. The meeting, which is dealt with in greater detail in the defence relations section of this *Review*, had special significance for Canada since it gave birth to the "Ottawa Declaration". The Declaration was designed to strengthen transatlantic bonds while affirming, on the 25th anniversary of NATO, the principle of close consultations among the allies.

An aim of Canadian policy is to further world peace and security by reducing the tensions arising from military confrontation. The policy also recognizes that this country's own security is indissolubly linked with that of Western Europe. In line with this, Canada throughout 1974 worked with its European partners toward the goal of détente. It participated in the complex negotiations which had been taking place in Vienna since October 1973—negotiations aimed at mutual and balanced force reductions in Central Europe between members of NATO and of the Warsaw Pact. A reduction of tensions caused by the Cold War and the general improvement in

relations between the United States and the Soviet Union—exemplified in particular by the SALT agreements—accounted to a large extent for the improved climate which prevailed in East-West relations. Canada continued in 1974 to play an important role in the working out of NATO policy in this field.

CSCE Conference

Similarly, but in a somewhat broader perspective, Canada took part in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The first stage of this gathering, in which 35 countries participated, had been held in Helsinki, at ministerial level, in July 1973. The second stage, at ambassadorial level, opened in Geneva in September of the same year and continued throughout 1974 with encouraging results. The goal of these negotiations, in which Canada has played an active role alongside its NATO allies, was the adoption of a series of documents intended to serve as a basis for improved East-West co-operation. In this context Canada attached special importance to the freedom of movement of individuals and to the reunification of families.

Canada's interests in Europe are not limited to the political, economic and military spheres, important as they may be. Thus it was with special satisfaction that the Canadian Government saw its efforts rewarded when the 18th general conference of UNESCO, meeting in Paris in the autumn, adopted a resolution making Canada a member of the European group so that it might participate in the regional activities of the organization.

Exchanges between Canadian and European Parliamentarians increased; to cite one example only, a delegation of Canadian senators and MPs visited Strasbourg in January at the invitation of their colleagues in the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.