

Canada Weekly

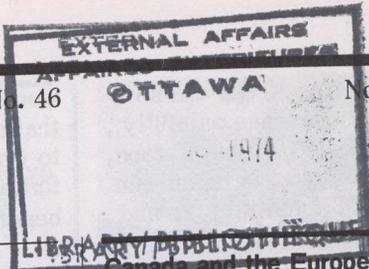
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OTTAWA

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Ottawa, Canada.



- Canada and the European Community – Mr. Trudeau in Paris and Brussels, 1
- The new National Museum of Man, 3
- Business corporations bill reintroduced in the House, 5
- Churchill books purchased by University of Calgary, 5
- Education professor heads Canadian delegation to Germany, 5
- Aid to Viet-Nam, 5
- Education experts visit Soviet Union, 6
- Changes in Citizenship Act, 6

Canada and the European Community – Mr. Trudeau in Paris and Brussels

Reporting to Parliament on October 28 concerning his visits the week before to France and Belgium, and the discussions he had taken part in with French and Belgian political leaders and with senior officials of the European Economic Community, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau claimed to have detected in both capitals “evidence of considerable warmth towards Canada, considerable interest in Canadian attitudes, and considerable desire to seek a convergence of interests”. “I can assure the House equally,” he declared, “that there exists within the Governments of France, Belgium and Luxembourg a genuine and wholesome appreciation of the reality of Canada.” The greater part of Mr. Trudeau’s address to the House of Commons follows:

...It goes without saying that the discussions in Paris with President Giscard d’Estaing and with Prime Minister Chirac and other ministers took place against a background of deep historical bonds and a shared culture of considerable richness. Of equal importance, however, they took place in an environment that acknowledged the distinctiveness of the Canadian entity and the modernity of Canadian accomplishments. There was evident in those meetings a will to deal practically with issues, a desire to co-operate rather than compete, to participate rather than withdraw, to consult rather than assume.

Paris

We agreed while in Paris to launch two bilateral working groups, each with an objective of identifying areas of fruitful co-operation in order to increase and diversify our volume of trade. Each is to conclude its work in time to report to the Canada-France Joint Economic Committee at its next meeting, to be held in Ottawa in the first half of next year. One working group will concentrate on examining, without advance commitment, technological and trade investment possibilities with respect to petroleum, gas, coal and nuclear fuels, taking into account matters of interest to both sides. The other group will examine the rather broader area of trade potential in industrial sectors, and in the first instance would concentrate on the transportation industry, dealing with French interests in railways and in helicopters and with Canadian interests in STOL



Photo Canadian Press
Prime Minister Trudeau laying a wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldier in Paris.

aircraft and in all-terrain vehicles.

An indication of the importance attached to these decisions was the agreement that the next Joint Economic Committee meeting should take place – for the first time – at the ministerial level.

Finally, it was recognized that the ultimate success of the work to be undertaken rested largely with private enterprise and that special efforts should be made to bring together French and Canadian businessmen in the coming months. In this connection,