



CANADA

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

70/23

## EUROPE REVISITED

Statement in the House of Commons,  
December 9, 1970, by the Secretary  
of State for External Affairs, the  
Honourable Mitchell Sharp.

I have just returned from a round of important discussions in Europe. These included talks with government leaders in Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands, with senior officers of the European Economic Community and participation in the December NATO ministerial meeting. I took advantage of the NATO meeting to have a further talk with Mr. Schumann, the French Foreign Minister.

On this occasion I should like to report to the House particularly on Western Europe, where events are moving so rapidly.

The six nations that today make up the Common Market are expected soon to become ten. Varying forms of association will bind other European countries to the Community. Preferential arrangements have been and will be made for a number of Mediterranean countries and some developing countries in Africa.

The mood in Europe is one of buoyancy and confidence. The horizons of the Common Market are broadening at a time when the will to bring about a deepening of the relations within it is increasing.

The Government has been following these developments with the closest attention for some time. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has recently tabled in the House a paper outlining their implications for Canada in the light of his own findings in European capitals. I made it the main purpose of my bilateral talks with the governments I visited and with the Community to emphasize certain concerns that Canada has in the face of these developments. My first concern was with the disruption and shifts in Canada's trading patterns that would necessarily arise from Britain joining the Common Market. The second was to make the Community and individual members aware that Canada intends to take increasing advantage of the enlarged EEC as a major market not only for our raw and semi-processed materials but for the finished products of our secondary industries. My third purpose was to impress upon those I visited the political as well as economic dangers inherent in any tendency towards trade polarization between the United States and the European Community.

It will be recalled that the formation of the European Economic Community was accomplished by the negotiation of the Kennedy Round. At that time Europe and the world moved together in harmony in what was a most impressive advance towards freer trade. Today there is little evidence of this kind of harmonious relation -- indeed quite the contrary.

My discussions in Europe came as a logical consequence to the meetings we had in Ottawa two weeks ago with the senior members of the American Administration, led by Secretary Rogers. The same points were made to the United States representatives here in Ottawa, to the British Government in London and those I met on the continent.

The timing of my visit to Europe was determined by the NATO December ministerial meeting. In the course of my statement there, I said that the developments in the last year suggest that we may have reached a turning-point in East-West relations in Europe. The sterile confrontation that has characterized these relations since the end of the Second World War is beginning to give way to a real effort to solve many of the intractable problems presented by the division of Europe. Interlocking negotiations with the Soviet Union are taking place on a broad front.

There can be no doubt that the conclusion of the treaties between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union and Poland constitutes progress. These are historic developments that could make a major contribution to a healthier situation in Central Europe. The resumption of intra-German talks is another encouraging move, even though these talks are beset with difficulties. The question remains, however, whether the Moscow and Warsaw treaties -- as yet unratified -- in themselves constitute sufficient progress to justify moving toward a general conference on European security.

There was virtually unanimous agreement that the progress to date was insufficient, largely because no satisfactory arrangement for Berlin has yet been reached. Canada concurred in this view but in my intervention, I suggested the alliance should not be negative about the conference idea. I proposed that in our communiqué we note the useful negotiations currently under way, indicate our satisfaction that some progress had been achieved and express the hope for further progress in the near future.

You will note that in the communiqué the member governments confirmed their readiness, as soon as talks on Berlin had reached a satisfactory conclusion, and in so far as other on-going talks were proceeding satisfactorily, to enter into multilateral talks to explore when it would be possible to convene a conference or series of conferences on security and co-operation in Europe.

The question of mutual and balanced force reductions is one NATO has been pursuing actively in recent years and is of particular interest to Canada. In Brussels the NATO ministers renewed their earlier invitation to interested states to hold exploratory talks on the possibility of negotiations on force reductions and indicated a readiness, within this framework, to examine different aspects of the question, including the idea of foreign force reductions which was publicly advanced by the Warsaw Pact countries last summer.

In the course of the foreign ministers' meeting, I expressed Canada's satisfaction with the results of the recent NATO-sponsored colloquium on oil

spills, which recommended that the governments should work through IMCO to eliminate, by 1975 if possible, all intentional discharges of oil in the sea, as well as to minimize accidental spills. This could be a breakthrough in one area of maritime pollution, particularly since the undertaking involves countries representing a high proportion of the world's oil-carriers. It is an excellent example of NATO's ability to contribute in a practical way to the solution of problems of current concern to its members.

On the defence side, the decisions taken helped to place the respective roles of North America and Europe within the alliance on a more equitable basis and to ensure that in the period of negotiation ahead the alliance will be able to proceed with confidence.

Turning to my bilateral discussions with European leaders -- I was struck by their determination to make progress towards integration. I have already spoken about enlargement. Discussions are taking place about an economic and monetary union and, perhaps more remotely, a common foreign policy. These internal preoccupations have overshadowed the problems enlargement presents to third countries, and for multilateral trading arrangements.

I sensed, however, a growing recognition of the wider responsibilities that an enlarged Community must shoulder, resulting from its sheer size and wealth as the world's largest trading unit. I found, as well, an awareness of the dangerous deterioration in international trading relations which would arise from a confrontation between a protectionist United States and a Europe bent on consolidating its own economic progress.

In my discussions I expressed the positive Canadian view of the movement toward greater European unity, while stressing that EEC enlargement should not and need not be brought about at the expense of third countries like Canada. I impressed upon my European colleagues the need for a renewed dialogue between the Community and North America to avert the very real danger of trade confrontation apprehended by qualified observers on both sides of the Atlantic. In this connection I am encouraged by the fact that Signor Malfatti, President of the European Economic Community, has accepted my invitation to come to Canada next spring.

At the NATO meeting, I called attention to the impact of such a confrontation on the solidarity of the alliance and suggested that NATO governments should be thinking of how best they could contribute to the continuing dialogue needed to avert the dangers foreseen....

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