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NOTES FOR A STATEMENT BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
THE HONOURABLE DON JAMIESON,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST MEETING  
OF THE CANADA/EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE,  
DECEMBER 10, 1976

I thank you, Monsieur Ortoli, for your kind words of welcome. It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this important occasion - the inaugural meeting of our Joint Cooperation Committee. I can assure you that I share your appreciation of the approach which should inform and guide those concerned in the implementation of the Agreement which we have put in place with the objective of bringing about increased economic cooperation between Canada and the European Communities. In particular, it is essential that those who, from today, will have the challenge of giving meaning and substance to our declared intentions should set about that task with a sense of realism and purpose.

In signing the Framework Agreement it could be said that both Canada and the Community have entered into uncharted territory. As you have indicated, Monsieur Ortoli, the Agreement represents the first such agreement the European Communities have negotiated with an industrialized country. And Canada has never before negotiated such an agreement. We have therefore neither precedent nor experience as a guide.

What we do start with, however, are wide-ranging and deep-rooted links between Canada and the Europe of the Nine. These links have been and continue to be strong and vital - those of history and ethnic origins, of shared values and traditions, of mutual security, of economic interdependence and of international cooperation. Indeed, it was this reality, these established relationships, which impinged in no small way on the basic review of foreign policy which Canada undertook just a few years ago. One of the major conclusions to emerge from that review was the need to achieve a better balance or equilibrium in our external relations through the diversification of these relations, notably with respect to our external economic interests. Given our links with Europe it was logical in the circumstances for Canada to seek a stronger and more vital economic content to our relationship with Western Europe. Our consequent initiatives to develop our bilateral economic relations with the member states of the community, particularly in the area of industrial cooperation, you are aware of, and, I am pleased to say, they are beginning to show definite results.

It was our mutual recognition of the fact that the Community represented a new dimension to our relationship with Europe which persuaded us that there would also be mutual interest in developing that relationship in conjunction with the cooperation we envisaged with the member states. As part of this process Canadian and Commission officials have developed the practice of holding regular informal consultations on economic issues of mutual interest. These have, appropriately, reflected the major role which both Canada and the Community play in international trade and economic relations as well as our importance to one another.

We can now add to the Canada-Community relationship in a significant way under our new Agreement by using this imaginative framework to bring about a dynamic and mutually beneficial expansion of our commercial and economic connections. Cooperation with the Community collectively will, of course, be pursued by Canada with full appreciation of the interests and competences of the individual member states. In our view these relations should develop both bilaterally and with the Community as a whole so that they reinforce and complement one another.

This is one of the reasons why we consider it important that our joint efforts under the Agreement should be launched with all possible speed. With the signature and ratification of the Agreement we completed phase one which can be considered the preliminary phase of the operation. Inasmuch as today's meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee will be essentially organizational, we should perhaps regard it as the transitional stage leading to phase two. In our view this next phase should begin as early as possible in the new year so that the Joint Committee can get down to its main purpose, without delay, of bringing about cooperation in practical and effective ways. I think we are in full agreement that to achieve this objective the Committee will need to establish a substructure and *modus operandi* which will enable it to quickly identify priority areas or sectors for cooperation. At the same time the organizational framework must be conducive to bringing together appropriate elements of our respective business communities in a close working relationship. In the end, it is their response to the work which will be undertaken by the Joint Committee which will be of utmost importance to achieving results. I would underline here that our respective authorities will not be seeking to employ the Agreement as a means of developing an interventionist approach. In our sort of economic systems that would not be appropriate and that is not our intention. Instead, in selected areas, we shall be trying to promote economic and commercial cooperation and to foster an environment conducive to industrial cooperation in particular. In short, while government will take as active a role as it can, given our economic system it is clear that much will depend on the private sector. In particular it will depend on the readiness of the private sector to respond to what I would call catalytic action on the part of government. That is, business must be ready to seize the opportunities which emerge from a process in which they will, of course, have been closely involved.

On the Canadian side, we are also very much aware that effective implementation of the Agreement will often require the involvement and cooperation of our provincial governments. This is something we shall want to ensure and we shall, of course, make appropriate arrangements to associate our provincial authorities in the process of implementation. Our provinces, I am pleased to say, have expressed keen interest in and support

for federal government initiatives in Europe. This applies particularly to what is envisaged under the Canada-Community Agreement.

The proposed work programme for the Joint Committee which officials will consider later seems to provide a well-blended menu. I am aware that some useful preliminary work has already begun in areas such as non-ferrous metals and forest products and that there have been exchanges of missions between us in these sectors. These are of obvious interest to both sides as indeed are other proposed items such as cooperation involving the telecommunications, construction and nuclear/uranium industries. As a Canadian from a region where the fisheries industry is a vital part of the economy I am naturally happy, as well as intrigued, that the possibility of fisheries cooperation will also be explored and I look forward to learning of what opportunities may exist for commercial and economic cooperation in this field.

In setting in motion whatever work programme is agreed upon today it is my hope that the Committee will apply the tests of pragmatism and realism to its deliberations. Neither side has suggested at any time that the Agreement would be some kind of panacea, that it could transform our economic relationship overnight, but we must guard against over-optimism without lessening our determination to succeed. I share your view, therefore, that in the first year or so the efforts of the Committee should be directed primarily towards a limited number of areas. This will by no means reduce the effort required of those involved and that should not be underestimated. But if it is well directed the work of the first two years will put in place the most important building block and permit us to move pragmatically from what may well be modest beginnings to more ambitious forms of cooperation. If we proceed in this way I am confident that there will be success down the road.

In closing, may I express to you, Monsieur Ortoli, and to your good colleague Sir Christopher Soames, our appreciation for the personal support which you have always given to our joint efforts to develop a closer and more vigorous economic relationship between Canada and the Community. You may be sure that we have been highly conscious of the cooperation and the constructive spirit you have brought to our relations. Thank you.