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NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE HONOURABLE
ALLAN J. MACEachEN,
AT A LUNCH IN HIS HONOUR
BY FOREIGN MINISTER
HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY, BONN,
MAY 24, 1976

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be in Germany and I am equally delighted by the warm welcome and kind hospitality that have been extended to my party and myself. My only regret is that my stay in Bonn must be such a short one.

I should also like to thank my colleague, Foreign Minister Genscher, for his kind words about Canada and assure him that I fully reciprocate his sentiments. It is easy for a Canadian to feel at home in Germany, and I think the reverse must also be true to judge by the hundreds of thousands of Germans who have come to Canada and, with their energy and traditions, have made such a significant contribution to the Canadian way of life. As the fourth largest ethnic group in Canada, Germans have done much to broaden and enrich our society.

Because Germany and Canada have the good fortune of being linked by many strands of mutual interest, cultural affinity and ethnic association, it is natural and easy for us to engage in regular consultations at the senior levels of government, as was foreseen in the exchange of letters in 1973 between our respective governments. Thus, I have had the pleasure of meeting you, sir, on a number of previous occasions in other European capitals to discuss matters of common concern.

Against this background I am particularly pleased at this moment to pay my first official visit, in my capacity as Foreign Minister, to the Federal Republic of Germany, because I am convinced that our two countries, as partners in some of the most important international enterprises of our times will be co-operating more and more closely together.

First of all, we are NATO allies and partners in maintaining and developing a healthy trans-Atlantic relationship. As a North American country, Canada has closer ties with the United States than with any other country, but we are also very much alive to the interdependence of North American and European security and prosperity and to the importance of its trans-Atlantic ties for Canada's own role in the world. It is for this fundamental reason that the Canadian Government has for some time been pursuing a policy of diversification of our international relationships, not with a view to diminishing our relations with the United States but rather to complementing them with more substantial relations elsewhere. In particular, Canada has been making a concerted effort to broaden and deepen its relations with Europe. Moreover, we believe it is in the interest of Europe to have more than one active partner in North America.

It is not, of course, open to Canada to participate directly in the great historic enterprise of building a united Europe. We are, though, watching Europe's efforts with deep interest and sympathy. We wish you well and we are confident that Europe will demonstrate its ability to

overcome its difficulties for the common good. It is in that conviction that we are pursuing our objective of establishing a contractual link with the European Community. The negotiation of a framework agreement is making good progress, and we are grateful for the consistent and helpful support we have received from the Federal Republic of Germany.

But Canada does not see its future relations with Europe exclusively in terms of the Canada/Community link. We intend to continue developing our bilateral relations with the member countries of the community in a parallel and mutually reinforcing way. In this context, Canada attaches a high priority to its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. This relationship is marked by programmes of co-operation developed under inter-governmental agreements in areas such as cultural relations, and science and technology. It is also reflected in significant and growing trade, investment and industrial co-operation as well as increasingly close co-operation in the defence field.

The presence of Canadian land and air forces stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany, whom I will be visiting tomorrow, and of German land forces training in Canada, contributes both to the common defence and to our bilateral understanding. Several months ago, the Canadian Government decided, after a thorough review of the Canadian defence programme, to maintain the numerical strength of our forces in this country and to improve their operational capability. As you know, sir, we are now in discussion with the Federal German authorities about the acquisition of a new main battle tank for these forces.

Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany are partners not only in Western defence but also in the East/West dialogue, where we aim to draw the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe into a more civilized, open and constructive relationship with the West. Indeed, we are both deeply convinced that defence and détente must go hand in hand; that either without the other, whatever the labels used to describe them, would sooner or later spell disaster.

We are aware that this conviction is of particular importance to the Federal Republic, with its special ties with Berlin which has been aptly described as "the touchstone of détente". But none of us can afford to take either defence or détente for granted; they require constant attention, a clear and realistic definition of our objectives, and a steady and consistent effort to achieve them over the long haul. I am glad to note that this approach was endorsed by the recent NATO meeting in Oslo.

It is premature at this point to make a final judgement about the results of détente, which should be regarded as an evolutionary process. On the other hand, it is not too soon to be clear in our own mind about the objectives of détente

and to insist on a more satisfactory and at the same time mutually acceptable understanding of what those objectives are. We must also maintain sufficient strength and cohesion to achieve them. In this regard, I believe the positions of Canada and the Federal Republic are practically identical and this has facilitated our very close co-operation in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks. Helsinki was not the end of the détente process. Its significance lies in the fact that all governments concerned made solemn declarations of intent and provided benchmarks against which to measure progress. This progress will now be measured by the practical implementation of the Final Act and the extent to which the Vienna talks actually bring a reduction in the still mounting level of forces.

The third common enterprise in which our two countries participate is the search for a more secure, stable and equitable world order. Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany are partners in the United Nations and expect soon to be fellow members of the Security Council, where we look forward to close and constructive collaboration of the many important and thorny issues coming before that body.

We are also partners in the North/South dialogue in such forums as the C.I.E.C. (Conference on International Economic Co-operation) and U.N.C.T.A.D. (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development). I trust that you agree, sir, that we cannot afford to let the Conference on International Economic Co-operation fail; that we must come to grips within a reasonable time with practical solutions which take into account the changing nature of the international economic community.

We are tackling common tasks in multilateral economic bodies, such as the I.M.F. (International Monetary Fund), the G.A.T.T. (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), the O.E.C.D. (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and the I.E.A. (International Energy Agency). In the multilateral trade negotiations we both seek significant reductions in the barriers to international trade. We also have common interests in co-operation in the I.A.E.A. and elsewhere to ensure that the benefits of nuclear technology may be enjoyed widely while curbing the spread of nuclear weapons. In other fields, such as the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, your interests and ours diverge but we are prepared to discuss our differences frankly and negotiate practical solutions in a co-operative spirit.

It is clear that there is a tremendous potential for expanding our co-operation, both bilaterally and multilaterally. There is much more we could do together. We, in Canada, have been impressed with the increasingly influential role which the Federal Republic has been playing in Europe, in NATO and in the world. We look forward to working even more closely with you in the pursuit of our common goals.