



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA STRENGTHENS ITS TIES WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

A Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, at the Opening of the Second Meeting of the Canada/European Community Joint Co-operation Committee, Ottawa, March 8, 1978.

Mr President,

Two of the fundamental features of our contemporary world are interdependence and the impact of technology. Technology has shown us how small and how fragile is this planet of ours. Similarly, our dependence on each other has been dramatically demonstrated on numerous occasions. The security and the prosperity of nations are intricately interwoven. Major economic shocks in one part of the world have impact upon all of us. To manage the problems and challenges of interdependence and advance our mutual interests and well-being, international co-operative endeavours are essential. Because of the place of the Community and Canada among the industrially-advanced of the world (we are the second and sixth economic entities in the world with respect to gross production), we share an overriding interest in the health of the global economy. It is thus essential that our efforts in the leading economic councils of the world reinforce the greater prosperity of the international community and point the way towards solutions to the economic problems to which none of us are immune. To do less would be to risk the well-being of us all, given the present difficult world economic climate.

But our multilateral efforts should not obscure the importance and opportunities that our efforts in bilateral co-operation promise. We are here today to continue these efforts and to give them further impetus.

Economics alone does not explain the strong desire of Canadians to retain and strengthen our ties with your Community. The depth and range of our historic bonds are well known. This sense of shared experience and spirit gives rise to a special feeling of affinity between Canada and the Community. As bystanders, we have watched attentively the construction of Europe. From its simple beginnings in the form of commercial arrangements among a few, it has evolved into the "Community of Nine", with its own institutions, its common policies and its prospects of both further enlargement and greater unity.

This special sense of affinity and our mutual desire that our relations should take account of the evolution of the Community and the shared challenges of the 1970s led logically, I suggest, to the undertakings we entered into in July 1976 to deepen and diversify our economic relations, undertakings that were reaffirmed at the first session of this committee in December 1976.

Today, for the first time, we are trying to draw up the official balance-sheet for the

results obtained since then, and to decide in which direction to orient our efforts for the coming year. Sixteen months ago, at the time of the first meeting of our committee, your predecessor and I sketched out the path along which we should pursue our quest for new types of co-operation at different levels, in areas that were largely unexplored. It is only at the cost of sustained effort that we shall be able to profit from the magnificent opportunities provided by such a vast field.

Our first balance-sheet is modest but positive. Nevertheless, much as I did just over a year ago, I want to stress that at this stage, whether auditing the past or planning the future, we must focus our efforts on the most realistic areas where we can, in conjunction with the business community, pinpoint and then exploit new elements of co-operation. We must share knowledge about policies, development strategies, research programs, etc., so that we create a more conducive climate for entrepreneurs. Joint ventures, licensing arrangements, tripartite co-operation, shared research and co-ordinated marketing — these are the tangible and dynamic areas where we can promote initiatives by the private sector. Our contribution must be as catalysts in the creation of a climate propitious to successful and imaginative undertakings in such areas.

In this realm, the major development in 1977 from the Canadian point of view was the series of visits of our businessmen to the Community's headquarters in Brussels. In March, members of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce's Advisory Board met with you and your colleagues to explore how the Canadian private sector could best co-operate with its Community counterpart; and one outcome was a second, rather different, mission to Brussels, in November, headed by my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, involving 150 Canadians from across the country representing a wide range of economic sectors. These and other visits during the year have provided us with many practical recommendations, on which we shall draw in future.

Less visible, but in rapid succession, new forms of co-operation have been explored in fields as diverse as non-ferrous metals, aerospace, forest products, nuclear equipment, construction and information equipment. But there is sometimes confusion about what industrial co-operation means. With industry (and, on your side, with member states, and, on ours, with provincial governments), we have jointly begun to examine the nature of industrial organization in promising areas of interest to both of us. In so doing, we are not substituting for conventional promotional efforts or assistance already provided by governments within the Community and in Canada. Instead, we seek to identify specialized forms of co-operation of a longer-term character, such as joint ventures and the like, in which government involvement can play a stimulative role, bringing together marketing, engineering and design skills from both sides with a view to innovation in products and services, even on a world scale. This mating of interests and capabilities within the private sector and the co-ordination of government activity within and between our administrations should have a growing "multiplier effect".

In the year ahead, I hope that progress will be possible on our recent proposal to you

for possible co-operation in the minerals and metals area. The proposal prejudices nothing but portends much. It assumes that we can reconcile Canada's interest in the upgrading of its raw-material exports and the Community's concern for secure and economical supplies of the materials it imports, in a more complex kind of co-operation I have felt would eventually be possible. In 1978, too, we should agree upon some facility to assist business people in the Community and in Canada to overcome specific impediments encountered in doing business in the others' territory. Our recent proposal to this end was one direct outcome of the visits of Canadian businessmen to Brussels last year, and we hope you will respond favourably to it. We need to define clearly the environment for business. The businessman must clearly perceive his prospects; he will not waste his effort if his case is hopeless.

Finally, in 1978 we expect to complete a trade-flow study that we hope will contribute to a greater awareness of the existing state and prospects for the development of our bilateral trade relations. We should also continue to promote exchanges in areas of special priority — for example, on science and technology, as you have lately proposed.

These are some of the specific priorities to which I believe we must address ourselves in 1978.

To return to the broader scene to which I referred earlier, we are pleased that recently we were able to conclude a nuclear-safeguards agreement with the Community that takes into account your very real interests, while at the same time conforming with our keenly-felt commitment to non-proliferation. Our participation in the international nuclear-fuel-cycle evaluation program should lead us towards generally-acceptable guarantees that greater dependence on nuclear energy generated by more advanced processes will not lead to greater insecurity brought on by nuclear proliferation.

There is not time to review in detail some of the largest international economic issues, such as the "North-South dialogue" and the multilateral trade negotiations, that we face. But we do ask that you look positively at the kind of outcome Canada must have from the MTN in the form of access to your markets and others if there is to be a mutual balance of advantage. Also, it seems essential to me that we, as major traders, should promote together our interest in preserving the integrity of the present world-trading system. This means ensuring that the trade rules are set fairly, that there is respect for both the rights and obligations of GATT members, and that these shall not be overridden solely because of currently-existing difficulties.

We share common interests, both past, present and future. Together we can provide a dynamic model of co-operation to the international community. Our efforts — and especially those of the private sector — are crucial to the success of our joint endeavours. It is a task that must be pursued diligently. In adopting the report before this committee today, I therefore wish to urge that we intensify our co-operative efforts, both in our own interests and those of the international community at large....

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