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**NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY
THE HONOURABLE ANDRÉ OUELLET,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE JEAN MONNET CHAIR
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL**

**MONTREAL, Quebec
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Canada

I wish to thank the organizers of this symposium for their invitation and for offering me such a prestigious framework for reporting to you on the status of relations between Canada and Europe.

The Jean Monnet Chair, whose establishment we are celebrating today, is a model of co-operation. The father of the European Union would have welcomed such a project with enthusiasm. This chair is important for two reasons. It will help our educators and researchers to promote studies on European integration and our transatlantic relations. It also reflects our common desire to favour partnership among the Government, the academic community and the private sector. Through its openness, its spirit of consultation and by bringing people closer together, this chair will benefit all Canadians.

The Jean Monnet Chair is the first to be created outside the European Union. It is significant that Canada was chosen. This choice testifies, not only to the favourable reputation that Canada enjoys with the European Union, but also to the excellent reputation of our academic institutions internationally.

The theme of your symposium is "Europe after the Maastricht Treaty in a Changing World." We all recognize the overwhelming changes that we have faced and that continue to challenge us. As you know, our government is committed to reviewing its foreign and defence policy. I realize that the European Union and its member countries are following this review with curiosity and interest. Needless to say, in this changing world, our relations will be on the agenda in this review. I cannot tell you what major thrusts the parliamentary committee responsible for this review will favour. However, I can outline some of the factors guiding the Government in its reflection on our transatlantic relations. If you will allow me, I would like to talk about the development of our relations to date, the implications of the geopolitical and social changes of recent years, and, finally, the major courses available to us. As you can see, I am not suggesting any earth-shattering analytical framework. I leave that up to the holder of the Jean Monnet Chair and his team!

Canada and Europe: Solid and Deep-rooted Transatlantic Ties

In his memoirs, Jean Monnet offers some interesting thoughts that he had about Canada when he travelled to Western Canada as a young man in 1906. He wrote: "For the first time, I met a people whose job was not to manage what already existed, but to develop it without stint. No one thought about limits; no one knew where the frontier was."

Although it was written to describe an impression made in 1906, this phrase has lost none of its relevance. At the close of this century with its innumerable upheavals, in this era of telecommunications and immediacy, we cannot think about limits or frontiers. The ideological boundaries drawn through the heart of

Europe have recently been erased. The new world order has shattered the traditional boundaries that shaped our thinking during the Cold War. Jean Monnet saw in our pioneers the spirit that was to guide him throughout his career: unity, mutual assistance and interdependence transcending all boundaries. Now, more than ever, in these days of the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and the Maastricht Treaty, we share the same impetus, the same pioneer spirit.

Some look at the Atlantic Ocean and see only an obstacle, a space that separates and keeps us apart. Fortunately, history offers us a totally different assessment and shows us the futility of retrenchment and isolationism. The Atlantic Ocean brought our ancestors' ships to our shores and, more recently, our troops to the defence of Europe. We share the same Atlantic rim with countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and Portugal. You are no doubt aware of the ties that bind us with regard to fisheries. I would say that we are bound not only by economic ties, but also by moral ties, to ensure the renewal of this valuable and fragile resource.

In the course of his brilliant career, Jean Monnet had the opportunity to learn and appreciate that Canada and Europe greatly needed one another, especially during two world wars. Once again, history offers us numerous, albeit painful, examples of our mutual recognition. The names of many European cities will remain forever burned in the collective memory of my fellow Canadians, cities such as Ypres, Dieppe, Passchendaele and Vimy. Whether in the trenches of World War I or on the beaches of Normandy 50 years ago, Canada has very clearly and agonizingly demonstrated its profound attachment to Europe. The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, will witness the importance of this chapter in the history of our relations by taking part in the official ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Allied landing in Normandy.

I do not need to remind you that Canada was born of two great European political cultures, resulting in a political system and culture that are unique in North America. For instance, Quebec has inherited a British parliamentary system and a legal system based on the Civil Code. We largely share the same cultural environment, the same humanist legacy. In many regards, we share the same approach, the same philosophy.

This, in short, is the spirit that has guided our natural process of establishing institutional and administrative ties with Europe in every area, regardless of the obstacles. After all, Europeans are among our chief allies. NATO [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization] and the CSCE [Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe] enabled us to forge solid ties to ensure peace and security in Europe during the Cold War. NAFO [the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization] has ensured sound common

management of the ocean resources that we share. The Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Co-operation of 1976 was the first of its kind that the Community signed with a third country. We must also mention the Transatlantic Declaration of 1990, and the multitude of joint bilateral commissions. We now have several co-operation programs covering a full range of subjects. We have made considerable progress. Needless to say, these programs have greatly contributed to the development of our relations.

The Transatlantic Declaration established a mechanism for regular meetings between the Prime Minister, the President of the Council of Europe, and the President of the European Commission.

From Berlin to Maastricht: Re-examining the Situation

The Europe envisioned by Jean Monnet is almost a reality. However, Europe's immediate environment is changing. Jean Monnet would have seen the fruit of his efforts in the unification of Germany and the end of Communism, and the realization of his fears in the horror of interregional conflict.

No one can doubt that Europe remains central to global security and stability. Some see the withdrawal of our troops from Germany as an abandonment of Europe. This is untrue. The dangers that we face today are not the same as in the past. Our troops are now in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

The new threats are called ethnic cleansing, exaggerated nationalism, terrorism, nuclear proliferation and environmental disasters, to name, unfortunately, only a few.

These changes are being reviewed in detail, not only in Canada but in Europe as well. After all, the changes that have occurred from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the signing of the Maastricht Treaty call for a re-examination of the situation. We will not forget the importance of Europe in our overall relations when conducting our review.

The European Union is our second-largest export market, the largest market in the world and the largest importer. Our trade is based on added value. More than 75 percent of our exports to the European Union are in the form of end products or manufactured products. This market is vital for Canada and all its regions. For example, in 1992, 30 percent of Newfoundland's exports went to the European Community. Few people realize that the economy of the Atlantic Provinces depends in large part on their exports to Europe. Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia are the Canadian provinces that export the most to the European Community. Next to the United States and Japan, our biggest bilateral trading partners are the United Kingdom and Germany. Twenty-seven percent of direct investment in Canada comes from Europe, and Canadian investment in Europe amounts to \$22 billion.

The process of European integration is still very much under way. The European Union is continuing to grow with the inclusion of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The integration of these countries will mean that, for the first time, the European Union will share a border with Russia and Hungary. I believe that this new northern dimension for the European Union is a very positive thing, that we can expect it to lead to greater co-operation on circumpolar issues, be they the environment, security or sustainable development.

Since the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, the European Union has become a gateway to the new markets of Central and Eastern Europe. Canada sees this as an opportunity not to be missed, as does Europe, I'm sure. Once again, we can take advantage of our historical links with the Old World. More than one million Canadians are of Ukrainian or Polish descent. A large number of them have already returned to the country of their ancestors to forge new links, to help these countries develop their political, democratic and economic institutions.

L'École des hautes études commerciales de l'université de Montréal is participating in a new project to establish a modern MBA program in Romania. Launched just last week, some 20 Canadian professors will teach at the Graduate School of Management in Bucharest as part of this project valued at close to \$3 million. All four Montreal-based universities are acting as partners in the project.

Canada and Europe at the Dawn of a New Century: Shared Advantages, Now More Than Ever

The influence of the European Union is expanding, and, by the year 2000, the Union will look radically different. We must adjust to this new reality. However, it is clear that Canada has no intention of withdrawing from Europe. Rather, it is our intention to redeploy our efforts with a view to better meeting the challenges and seizing the opportunities with which we are presented by a changing and expanding Europe.

I think that both Europe and Canada can find inspiration for their actions in this regard in the words of Jean Monnet. As he indicated, we must work together, not to negotiate advantages, but to seek our advantage in shared advantage.

In the context of the examination that we must make of the new role of our international security organizations, we realize that, where the main priorities of the nations involved are concerned, economic interests have replaced military concerns.

The economy of the fast-approaching 21st century will be even more competitive and international. Education and training will ensure the success of nations in this economy. Institutions of higher learning make an essential contribution to the development of

Canadian society. Our Red Book bears witness to this with these words: "The federal government, however, can and should support and facilitate the national effort to prepare Canadians to compete in the world."

I read with great interest the recent Commission of the European Communities White Paper, *Growth, Competitiveness, Employment. The Challenges and Ways Forward into the 21st Century*. In it, the Commission draws on themes which we developed in our own Red Book. We recognize the importance of education, research and development and new technologies in economic recovery. Both documents hint at possible avenues of co-operation.

We must forge transatlantic links of co-operation and partnership in the various fields of higher education. The Government of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien wants to give Canadians the tools they need to shine in this new international economy based on information and knowledge. Internationalization of higher education is one of these tools. I am confident that we will be able to take the necessary steps to make increased and structured co-operation with Europe possible in the crucial fields of education and training.

Moreover, education is one field which the Transatlantic Declaration aims at developing, along with the economy, research and development and audio-visual. The Prime Minister and Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, confirmed this at their Ottawa meeting last week. The Canada-Europe Round table, held at the invitation of the European Community two weeks ago in Louvain, Belgium, is an important step forward in our efforts to forge close ties of co-operation in higher education and manpower training as we look ahead to the 20th century.

Our foreign policy review provides an opportunity to take a second look at our international activities in support of higher education, research and training.

Institutions of higher education provide an essential contribution to the development of Canadian society, and are key partners in the national effort to maintain our competitiveness. In this twofold capacity, higher education plays a leading role in the pursuit of Canada's interests abroad.

In recognition of the importance of this role and of the excellent co-operation between our two levels of government in this area, I wish to involve the provinces closely in this effort to review our international activities in higher education. The resulting dialogue should provide a unique contribution to the general review of Canadian foreign policy.

I have thus invited Minister Jacques Chagnon, Chair of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, to consider this matter during

the next meeting of the federal-provincial Consultative Committee on international education-related activities.

I repeat: we do not intend to withdraw from Europe. Rather, the geopolitical, economic and social changes of the past few years are prompting a redeployment of our increasingly limited resources. Choices therefore have to be made.

We have a strong desire to maintain our cultural presence in Europe. Canada's presence abroad cannot be measured simply in terms of the sum of our country's exports. It is also measured in terms of the presence of our artists, creators and thinkers, and the extent to which our cultural voice is heard in Paris, London, Rome or Brussels. Our orchestras, film-makers, writers and thinkers forge tangible and direct human links. Europe remains a vital market for them.

Therefore, I am happy to announce that we have cancelled the previous government's decision to sell the Cultural Centre in Paris. We are looking at a series of options for its future uses. We are also considering how we might consolidate and rationalize our cultural activities internationally.

A strong, diversified relationship with our European partners, and with the European Union, remains essential to the equilibrium of our foreign policy. We know from experience that our political, economic, commercial and cultural dialogue must be rich and consistent.

This is not the task of governments alone, but of business, decision-makers, researchers and opinion-formers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Conclusion

You will agree with me when I say that the links between Canada and Europe are solid. To paraphrase Jean Monnet, it is more realistic to focus on what is necessary than to look only at what is possible.

European security remains necessary, today more than ever. The presence of our troops in the former Yugoslavia bears strong witness to the importance we place on security in Europe.

The end of the Cold War plus European integration and expansion have radically transformed the transatlantic relationship.

Security and defence continue to be essential considerations. The bases of our co-operation in these fields are solid, but the challenges are many.

Institutions like NATO and the CSCE need to be reformed and adapted to the needs of this changing world. Intervention is required to assist the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to make their transition to a market economy a successful one. This is a task essential to the stability of the Old Continent. Finally, we must exercise constant vigilance to prevent conflict and maintain peace.

No effort must be spared to break down barriers and promote openness among the American, European and Asian economic units now taking shape.

Because Europe's geographic, social and economic borders are changing, we must examine our links in more detail. Let us think in terms of necessities rather than possibilities.

However, in a world that is constantly changing, the only certainty we share is the certainty that no nation can isolate itself. Canada and Europe cannot allow themselves to put aside such a long and fruitful tradition of co-operation. Europe remains central to Canada's foreign policy.