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THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND CANADA

CANADA: THE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

Canada, the world's second largest country has, with a total area of 10 million sq. km, nearly ten times the land area of the European Community (1.5 million sq. km). Yet, with 24 million inhabitants, Canada possesses a population of less than 10 percent that of the Community (270 million), and is one of the least densely populated countries on earth [see Appendix A]. Its pluralist democracy, socio-economic structure and cultural traditions place Canada firmly in the same system as Western Europe, from which its population so largely derives. Indeed the cultural, historical and demographic ties which unite Canada and the countries of the European Community are as important as the economic ones. As a federal state, Canada comprises ten provinces and two centrally administered territories.

Few countries in the world can rival Canada's economic potential. The country's enormous present and future mineral production is in sharp contrast to the situation in the Community which is largely and in some cases totally dependent upon imports in this sector. Canada is already one of the world's great producers of oil and natural gas, uranium, copper, nickel, zinc, iron ore (the world's fifth largest producer), coal and a wide range of rarer metals and also non-metallic minerals including asbestos, potash, salt and titanium dioxide.

Though still largely unexplored and even less exploited, the country's energy potential is impressive. Canada is already today a net energy exporter, and its energy potential (especially in oil, gas, coal and uranium) is probably the most varied of all energy-producing countries.

Canada's investment needs are correspondingly huge. In coming decades, hundreds of billions of dollars will have to be invested in production facilities, pipelines, railways, port and industrial infrastructure, especially in the western provinces and territories and in the Canadian Arctic. Canada does not wish, however, to limit its economic role to that of a raw materials exporter, for it is determined to process a growing part of its energy and raw materials and increasingly to export semi-finished products such as petrochemicals, aluminium and wood products.

Canada is at the same time basically an advanced industrial economy, with the principal manufacturing industries comprising automobiles, pulp and paper, meat processing, oil refining and iron and steel. While its industrial structure is likely to go on being strongly resource-based, Canada is now moving firmly into high technology fields, including computers, aeronautics and the nuclear industry.

Canada's external economic relations

Canada's current and recent external economic relations are characterised by the predominant role played by the United States in both trade and investment. Some 63 percent of Canada's trade (1980) is conducted with the United States, compared with 13 percent with the Community and 6 percent with Japan. A total of 80 percent of foreign investment in the country is held by American interests. Some 66 percent of Canadian foreign trade is in raw materials, agricultural products and semi-manufactures.

The Canadian Federal Government, and in general the Provincial Governments as well, have in the last decade endeavoured to diversify the country's political and economic relations in order that Canada should play a wider world role and at the same time emerge from the "special Canadian situation" which has sometimes made the country a difficult partner for the European Community among others. One of the more important measures taken by the Federal Government was to sign, on 6 July 1976, a European Community - Canada Framework Agreement, committing both parties to develop and extend their economic and commercial cooperation. Partly as a result of this Agreement, Canada is now fifth among the Community's extra-European trading partners, following the United States, Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union and Japan. In the period of the Agreement, Canada's exports to the Community have increased by 75 percent, while Community exports to Canada have grown by 50 percent. The Agreement has, however, stimulated cooperation in several areas other than trade, notably in the fields of industrial cooperation and science, technology and environment cooperation.

THE OVERALL PARTNERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND CANADA

For the European Community, Canada should in future become an ever more important economic and political partner, not least on account of its enormous potential. Canada possesses some of the scarce resources on which the Community will always depend, particularly energy. One third of the Community's uranium needs is currently supplied from Canadian sources and it is likely that in future Canadian natural gas and coal will also supply Community industry and homes. Canada also offers major scope for European private investment and industrial cooperation, both in resource and industries and in high technology. At the same time Canada will continue to offer Europeans an attractive and expanding market for sophisticated technologies and specialised equipment for the development projects related to the full exploitation of the country's resources. The Community intends to reinforce its relationship with Canada on the basis of the 1976 Framework Agreement. Cooperation is envisaged in many sectors, with the Commission playing, on the European side, the role of catalyst between private operators in fields such as forestry, asbestos mining, coal and steel technology, rapid transit systems and aeronautics.

As influential members of the western community of industrialized countries, the European Community and Canada are already active partners in many international forums, in for example the annual "western economic summits"(1) (of which the last was held at Ottawa in July 1981) and in the GATT. In relation to development cooperation, the Community and Canada occupy a similar position, in particular where the need for a close and continuous dialogue with developing countries is concerned.

(1) together with the United States, Japan and four Member States of the European Community: the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Canada and the European Community conduct their relations both within the multilateral framework of the GATT and OECD and other international bodies -including now the annual economic summit of western industrialised countries - and at a bilateral level.

Canada accredited a diplomatic mission to the Community in April 1973 and the Commission set up a permanent Delegation in Ottawa in 1976. A mutual desire for closer relations between the two parties found expression in 1972 on the eve of British accession to the Community. The resolution of the October 1972 Community Summit called for a "constructive dialogue" between Canada and the Community. In November 1972, Canada addressed an aide-mémoire to the Community suggesting the possibility of a general agreement on economic and other matters, an approach which was well received by the Commission. A series of Semi-Annual High-Level Consultations was inaugurated between the Commission and the Canadian Federal Government which continues to flourish.

Present in Ottawa at one of the first semi-annual meetings of this type, the then Commission Vice-President responsible for external relations Sir Christopher Soames stated that "Canada appears to us as a country whose whole approach to world problems is similar, and in many aspects identical, to the approach which the European Community itself is seeking to adopt. In our desire, for example, to secure a further liberalisation of world trade and to trade and to promote a new and more satisfactory balance between developed and developing countries, we believe that Canada and the Community are walking the same road together".

For its part, Canada clearly had many reasons for wishing to forge new links with the Community. Above all, it wished to diversify its external relations in general and to add a Community dimension to the already existent good relations with individual Community Member States. But in more material terms, with an overwhelmingly large proportion of its trade being with the United States, Canada wished to develop alternative markets, notably the hitherto fast expanding European common market. Indeed, the Community of the Six was in 1972 already Canada's third biggest market, following closely behind the United Kingdom. British membership of the Community has, however, obviously increased the importance to each other of the Community and Canada as commercial partners. Indeed the Community now ranks immediately behind the United States as Canada's most important trading partner.

Canadian thinking was taken a step further in an aide-mémoire in April 1974 proposing the negotiation of an Agreement which would establish a "direct contractual link between Canada and the Community" and "foster the development of long-term commercial and economic relations". Taking up the challenge and aware of the limited value of merely confirming GATT engagements, the Commission preferred an agreement which would constitute "a broad Community framework for economic and commercial cooperation between Canada and the Member States extending well beyond the field of classical trade policy". In turn the Council of Ministers emphasised the importance attached by the Community to its traditional ties with Canada; it considered that these should be strengthened in a manner to be negotiated between the two parties. In the course of the visit of Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, to Brussels in 1974, it was agreed that informal exploratory talks should take place on this basis between the Commission and the Canadian Government.

Initial exploratory conversations took place in Ottawa between Canada and the Commission in February 1975, to be followed by two further series of talks at Brussels and Ottawa. On 21 May the Commission put forward clear-cut proposals to the Council for the conclusion of the Framework Agreement on Commission and Economic Cooperation. In February 1976 the Council adopted the Commission's negotiating mandate, and the negotiations opened in March. Rapid progress was made in two negotiating rounds and the Agreement was initialled on 2 June and signed on 6 July 1976. The Agreement expresses the resolve of the two partners "to deepen and diversify their commercial and economic relations to the full extent of their growing capacity to meet each other's requirements on the basis of mutual benefit". It is noteworthy that the Framework Agreement is the only one negotiated by the Community with an advanced industrialized state.

The Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation

The main features of this Agreement are as follows:

1. The two parties undertake to accord each other most-favoured-nation treatment in accordance with the rights and obligations under GATT.
2. They undertake to promote the reciprocal development and diversification of trade at the highest level through: international and bilateral cooperation for the solution of trade problems of common interest, the mutual granting of the widest facilities for commercial transactions, and the taking into account of their respective interests regarding access to and processing of resources. They also agree to discourage, in conformity with their legislation, restrictions of competition including pricing practices distorting competition carried out by their industrial enterprises.
3. They agree to foster economic cooperation in all fields deemed suitable such as: the development and prosperity of their industries, the encouragement of technological and scientific progress, the opening up of new sources of supply and new markets, creating new employment opportunities, reducing regional disparities, the protection and improvement of the environment and economic development.

With such aims in view they agree to encourage and facilitate industrial links, especially joint ventures, greater reciprocal commercial participation in industrial development on mutually advantageous terms, increased and mutually beneficial investment, technological and scientific exchanges, and joint operations by their respective firms and organisations in third countries.

4. The Agreement provides for the setting up of a Joint Cooperation Committee to promote and review activities inaugurated under the agreement by holding consultations at an appropriate level. The Committee will normally meet annually but special meetings may be held at the request of either party; and subcommittees may be set up where appropriate.
5. The agreement is of indefinite duration and may be terminated by either party after five years subject to one year's notice.

Meetings of the Joint Cooperation Committee

Since the conclusion of the Framework Agreement, there have been four meetings of the Joint Cooperation Committee, at Brussels (1976), Ottawa (1978), Brussels (1979) and Ottawa (1981). The fourth meeting, held on 6 July, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the signature of the Agreement, was held under the co-chairmanship of the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, and Commission Vice-President Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp, responsible for the Community's external relations.

Recent political exchanges

High-level visits from both sides have been stepped up in recent years and have included those to Brussels of Dr. MacGuigan, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs (May 1980 and May 1981), Mr. Levesque, Premier of Quebec (December 1980), Mr. Lumley, Federal Minister of State for Trade (October 1980), Mr. Wells, Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs of Ontario (October 1980) and Mr. Landry, Minister of State for Economic Development of Quebec (December 1980).

Of Commissioners paying official visits to Canada, the most recent have been Mr. Cheysson, then responsible for development cooperation (August 1980), and Vice-President Haferkamp, responsible for external relations (July 1981).

Parliamentary meetings

Given the many affinities between the parliamentary systems of Canada and Community countries, it is natural that regular exchanges should take place between members of the Canadian and European Parliaments. The first official exchange of delegations was organised in 1974, and since then there have been annual meetings alternately in Europe and Canada. The ninth annual meeting was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 23-26 June 1981 and was led on the Canadian side by Senator Royce Frith, and on the European Parliament side by Sir John Stewart-Clark. At this meeting, energy questions, constitutional matters and international themes were the main subjects of discussion. From 18 to 25 October Mme. Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament, also visited Canada.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The impact of the Framework Agreement

Between 1976 and 1980, the current value of two-way trade between Canada and the European Community grew from \$ 7.9 (2) billion to \$ 15.2 billion. During the same period, exports of Canadian end products to the Community grew from half a billion dollars to almost one and a half billion. Expressed in real terms, this represents a 94 % increase. Community exports of end products have doubled their share of total Canadian imports of these products over the same four years. In 1978, the most recent year for which figures are available, direct Canadian investment in the Community totalled \$ 2.5 billion while direct Community investment in Canada amounted to \$ 7.5 billion.

(2) \$ Canadian dollars

In this positive trading environment, the Framework Agreement is designed to be supportive of the closer economic ties being developed in the private sector. This is being achieved both directly through support of private sector initiatives and indirectly through a broad range of activities ranging from a review of policies affecting the relationship to collaboration in research and development. The activities undertaken include government and business industrial cooperation missions, joint seminars on new technologies, sectoral working groups and symposia, collaborative science and environment research programmes and the conclusion of formal arrangements in specific sectors.

Trade relations

The trading relationship between the Community and Canada is characterised by a high degree of complementarity. Following the de facto devaluation of the dollar in 1978-79, the Canadian surplus with the Community rose from \$ 2.4 billion in 1979 to \$ 3.8 billion in 1980. However, this tendency has been reversed in 1981.

The main Community exports (see Appendix C) to Canada are machinery and transport equipment (40 percent of total value in 1980), other manufactured goods (31 percent), chemicals (12 percent) and food, beverages and tobacco (7 percent). Community imports from Canada (see Appendix D) comprise principally fuel products (33 percent of total value in 1980), manufactured goods (25 percent), machinery and transport equipment (15 percent) and various raw materials (12 percent).

Some difficulties are faced by Community exporters in certain sectors including beverages and "appellation of origin". In the beverages sector, there remain a number of discriminatory practices, as applied by the Provincial Liquor Control Boards, against the importation of alcoholic beverages. These practices include higher markups than for domestic products. In the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations the Canadian provinces undertook to reduce discrimination within eight years, but little progress has thus far been made. Secondly, problems have arisen in the matter of "appellations of origin", to which notion the Canadian authorities do not formally subscribe.

On their side, the Canadians are confronted primarily with problems in the agricultural sector resulting from the application of the Community's agricultural policy which in Canada's view creates problems for certain exports of Canadian farm products.

Community concern about certain Canadian legislation

Foreign investment in Canada

As a result of Canada's Foreign Investment Review Act (FIRA), foreign capital investment in Canada, that is in a country where the degree of foreign ownership of industries surpasses that in other industrialized countries, is rigorously scrutinised before being admitted and, is only allowed if deemed of "significant benefit" to Canada. Concerns have arisen on the European side from the difficulty of establishing clear criteria for the definition of this requirement.

Canada's energy programme

Secondly, the Community is preoccupied with the artificially low price levels for Canadian oil. On 1 September 1981 the Federal Government reached agreement with Alberta on the increase of the oil price in Canada. Although the increase will be faster than originally intended by the Federal Government, Canada is committed to maintain the oil price at 75 percent of the world market level (or US level if this is lower). The Community is anxious about the potential dangers resulting from subsidised oil prices for Canada's export of certain products to the Community. It is recalled that the energy sector as a whole is to be "Canadianised", with at least 50 percent of ownership in the energy sector reserved for Canadians.

Fisheries

Continuing problems in this sector have derived in large measure from the absence of a common fisheries policy for the Community. Canada and the Community have in fact already negotiated a long-term agreement, which, initialled in November 1980, had been upheld by the Community's Council of Ministers as part of the package for setting up a Community fisheries policy, until 29 September 1981, when an important step forward towards a Community fisheries policy was made.

Euratom/Canada Agreement on Nuclear Cooperation

An Agreement on Nuclear Cooperation, concluded already in 1959, provides for research and other cooperation on the development of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Canada now provides the Community with one third of its natural uranium needs. Following negotiations between the European Commission and Canada, a new agreement on the reprocessing and storage of nuclear material was initialled on 22 October 1981.

Industrial cooperation

Industrial cooperation, as one of the areas specifically covered by the Framework Agreement, includes the particularly active sectors of forest industries, minerals and metals (notably asbestos, coal, iron and steel and non-ferrous metals), uranium and nuclear industries, and energy conservation. In the last-named sector, it is noteworthy that in early 1980 a Canadian "energy bus" visited seven Community Member States to demonstrate new methods of energy conservation and inspired the construction of similar buses in the Community. In 1980, urban transportation was also identified as a promising new area. Discussions have also been held on telematics and the impact of information technology, on policies in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises and on industrial innovation. Over the years numerous industrial missions have been organised by both the European Community and Canada.

Science, technology and environment cooperation

As another major area of cooperation as defined by the Framework Agreement, progress has been made in many fields, including medical research; radio-biology; solar energy; raw materials and energy systems modelling; research into the management and storage of radioactive waste, and a projected seminar on long-term forecasting in advanced industrial societies.

On the environmental side, a fourth series of meetings between senior Canadian and Community officials responsible for the environment was held at Ottawa, Quebec City and Toronto in 1980. In November 1980, the Canadian Federal Minister and the European Commissioner responsible for environmental matters met in Brussels to stimulate further cooperation in this field. Parallel Canada-Community environmental cooperation is also maintained in various international organisations such as the ECE, OECD and, especially, the UNEP.

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COMPARATIVE TABLE OF AREA AND POPULATION: EC, USA, CANADA AND JAPAN

	Area 1 000 sq km	Population 1979 million	Density of population per sq km	Projected Population million	
				1985	1990
Germany	248,6	61,4	246,8	59,6	58,6
France	544,0	53,5	98,3	54,8	56,1
Italy	301,3	56,9	188,8	57,1	57,8
Netherlands	41,2	14,0	340,5	14,3	14,6
Belgium	30,5	9,8	322,9	9,8	9,9
Luxembourg	2,6	0,4	140,0	0,4	0,4
United Kingdom	244,1	56,0	229,2	56,2	56,8
Ireland	70,3	3,4	47,9	3,5	3,7
Denmark	43,1	5,1	118,7	5,2	5,2
Greece	132,0	9,4	71,6	9,5	9,7
EC-10	1657,6	269,1	162	270,3	272,9
USA	9363,1	220,6	23,6	232,9	243,5
Canada	9922,3	23,7	2,4	25,5	26,8
Japan	337,6	115,9	306,9	119,7	122,8

Source: Statistical Office of the EC

THE COMMUNITY'S EXTERNAL TRADE WITH MAJOR INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES

(Millions of U.S. dollars)

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Imports (c.i.f.)									
World (ex-EC)	73 560	103 840	156 008	155 660	178 174	197 608	227 165	298 967	378 082
U.S.	12 905	18 068	24 262	25 558	28 286	29 432	35 554	47 098	61 609
Canada	2 764	3 525	4 778	4 380	4 873	4 914	5 056	6 985	8 505
Japan	2 977	4 186	5 219	5 988	7 149	8 732	11 102	13 421	17 351
Australia	1 511	1 872	1 979	1 991	2 520	2 396	2 409	3 244	3 441
New Zealand	851	1 022	877	841	935	1 030	1 240	1 463	1 518
EFTA	13 796	19 573	24 403	25 119	27 817	31 995	41 847	56 036	68 059
Exports (fob)									
World (ex-EC)	73 763	99 365	136 235	150 400	157 748	189 884	221 617	266 129	312 496
U.S.	12 693	15 766	18 977	16 380	18 149	23 429	29 432	34 321	36 989
Canada	2 136	2 431	3 020	3 167	3 100	3 489	4 058	4 601	4 718
Japan	1 673	2 840	3 303	2 763	3 040	3 524	4 748	6 349	6 362
Australia	1 390	1 876	2 893	2 642	2 689	3 049	3 610	4 038	4 288
New Zealand	473	589	909	778	679	747	854	1 025	933
EFTA	18 848	25 695	33 334	33 668	37 439	43 708	49 952	65 091	79 393
Balance									
World (ex-EC)	203	-4 475	-19 773	-5 260	-20 425	-7 724	-5 548	-32 838	- 65 587
U.S.	- 212	-2 302	- 5 285	-9 179	-10 137	-6 003	-6 122	-12 777	- 24 625
Canada	- 628	-1 094	- 1 758	-1 213	- 1 773	-1 425	- 998	- 2 384	- 3 786
Japan	-1 305	-1 346	- 3 109	-3 225	- 4 109	-5 208	-6 354	- 7 072	- 10 989
Australia	- 121	4	915	651	169	653	1 201	794	+ 846
New Zealand	378	- 434	- 32	- 63	- 256	- 283	- 386	- 438	- 585
EFTA	5 052	6 112	8 931	8 549	9 622	11 713	8 105	9 055	+ 11 334

Source: Eurostat: Monthly Trade Bulletin
Special Number 1958-79

CANADIAN IMPORTS (MIO \$ CDN)

FROM	1977		1978		1979		1980	
	Value	% of Total						
E.C.	3639.9	8.6	4643.6	9.3	5589.2	8.9	5515.5	8.0
U.S.A.	29814.9	70.4	35436.3	70.7	45419.5	72.4	48180.5	70.1
Japan	1792.9	4.2	2276.0	4.5	2157.1	3.4	2791.5	4.1
Total(World)	42332.3	100.0	50101.6	100.0	62724.0	100.0	68710.3	100.0
Food, Bev. & Tobacco	3250.3	7.7	3688.4	7.4	4141.3	6.6	4644.0	6.8
From E.C.-EC Share	402.3	12.4	483.6	13.1	454.3	11.0	478.2	10.3
Fuel Products	4167.3	9.8	4460.0	8.9	5742.8	9.2	8365.6	12.2
From E.C.-EC Share	25.0	0.6	19.8	0.4	37.3	0.6	124.8	1.5
Raw Materials	6114.6	14.4	7532.8	15.0	10945.5	17.5	12192.1	17.7
From E.C.-EC Share	688.9	11.3	873.9	11.6	1196.6	10.9	935.4	7.7
Chemicals	2007.7	4.7	2595.8	5.2	3212.8	5.1	3339.3	4.9
From E.C.-EC Share	286.4	14.3	440.7	17.0	489.9	15.2	478.9	14.3
Machines & Transp. Equip.	17228.8	40.7	19853.3	39.6	24541.3	39.1	24878.4	36.2
From E.C.-EC Share	1035.5	6.0	1348.1	6.8	1726.0	7.0	1860.2	7.5
Other Manuf. Goods	8776.4	20.7	10497.5	21.0	12699.4	20.2	14343.3	20.9
From E.C.-EC Share	1115.3	12.7	1362.7	13.0	1552.7	12.2	1528.5	10.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. 65-001

CANADIAN EXPORTS (MIO \$ CDN)

TO	1977		1978		1979		1980	
	Value	% of Total						
E.C.	4658.7	10.7	4907.7	9.4	7191.0	11.2	9372.5	12.7
U.S.A.	30403.6	69.6	36651.2	70.1	43438.5	67.7	46658.8	63.2
Japan	2513.3	5.8	3052.6	5.8	4076.9	6.4	4345.5	5.9
Total(World)	43683.9	100.0	52259.3	100.0	64190.3	100.0	73821.3	100.0
Food, Bev. & Tobacco	4391.8	10.1	5072.0	9.7	6045.4	9.4	7939.5	10.8
To E.C.—EC Share	875.7	19.9	915.6	18.1	1123.0	18.6	1235.1	15.6
Fuel Products	5078.0	11.6	5537.6	10.6	8012.7	12.5	10114.2	13.7
To E.C.—EC Share	34.3	0.7	55.8	1.0	279.6	3.5	374.3	3.7
Raw Materials	16929.1	38.8	20026.7	38.3	25571.4	39.8	29852.7	40.4
To E.C.—EC Share	3071.8	18.1	2974.2	14.9	4454.5	17.4	5748.6	19.3
Chemicals	1738.0	4.0	2362.8	4.5	3315.2	5.2	3975.1	5.4
To E.C.—EC Share	167.0	9.6	305.2	12.9	368.1	11.1	643.2	16.2
Machines & Transp. Equip.	12741.1	29.2	15631.7	29.9	16407.7	25.6	16047.6	21.7
To E.C.—EC Share	216.5	1.7	208.4	1.3	286.8	1.7	430.9	2.7
Other Manuf. Goods	2162.3	4.9	2907.1	5.6	4250.1	6.6	5410.0	7.3
To E.C.—EC Share	278.3	12.9	352.9	12.1	665.6	15.7	926.0	17.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Cat. 65-001

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