

EMBARGO: MONDAY, 6 JULY 1981, 10.15 a.m.

SPEECH OF MR. WILHELM HAFERKAMP,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,
TO THE JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE (JCC) MEETING,
IN OTTAWA, 6 JULY 1981

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Mr. Cochairman, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed very pleased to be here in Ottawa today,
on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the conclusion
of the Framework Agreement between Canada and the European
Community.

Three weeks ago

the Foreign Ministers of

- Canada,
- the USA,
- the Community,
- Japan,
- Australia
- and New Zealand

met with their counterparts of the ASEAN countries in Manila.

In two weeks time

the heads of state or government of

- the USA,
- Japan,
- France,
- Germany,
- Italy
- and the United Kingdom

will be the guests of your Prime Minister here in Ottawa.

The European Community will be represented at that occasion
by the President of the EC-Commission.

These three events,

These three events,

though quite different in their character,
have something in common;

They are first and foremost the expression of the fact
that the world has become small and interdependent.

What goes on in distant Japan or South-East-Asia

is no longer a matter of indifference to either of us.

Just as the fixing of agricultural prices by the European Community
or of interest rates by the US Government

is a matter of great interest and sometimes even concern
to partners outside the Community or the USA.

Secondly,

they are the expression of common values for which we stand:

- freedom of man,
- democracy,
- free market economy,
- an open international trading system,
- full employment,
- free interchange of ideas, people, goods and services.

Thirdly, these meetings

Thirdly,

these meetings underline our common responsibility
as the principal partners for the world-economic well-being.

Not only

for the 600 million people in the industrialized countries
of the free world,

but also

for the poor and hungry in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

More than anything

the Ottawa Summit will mark the big rôle
that Canada has traditionally played in world affairs.

I want to pay special tribute here to that rôle.

Canada has always stood

- for peace and freedom in the world,
- for free international trade
- and for helping the developing countries out of their misery.

Let me express my special appreciation

Let me express my special appreciation for the support

that Canada has given to our economic and political integration with the European Community.

As a federal country yourself,

you are in a privileged position to understand some of the difficulties we are experiencing

in shaping our policies at the Community level

and arriving at a consensus among the ten member states.

We do look forward,

like you Mr. Minister,

to the expansion of the Community to other European democracies interested in joining.

We hope

that in the near future

the negotiations for the entry of Spain and Portugal will be successfully concluded.

We meet here today

We meet here today

to assess the results of the cooperation

that has been launched between Canada and the European
Community through the Framework Agreement.

The declared aim of the Framework Agreement

is to expand and improve the economic and commercial
relationship between Canada and the Community.

As you rightly said, Mr. Co-chairman,

its initiators envisaged goals

that went beyond pure trade and economic matters.

We should, indeed, never forget the strong ties

that unite Canada and Europe beyond the economic realms:

- culture,
- security,
- freedom
- and history.

Canada had the imagination and purpose

to establish a stronger presence in international relations

by creating special relationships with its neighbours
across the oceans

- Japan on the Pacific side
- and the Community on the far side of the Atlantic.

The Community had every reason

The Community had every reason

to respond positively to the Canadian initiative.

We feel there is huge potential

for a special relationship

between two different, but technologically
and industrially highly developed democratic partners.

We feel there is scope for more trade among us.

I am as pleased as you are

that the long-term trend of diminishing importance
of the Community in Canada's external trade

has been reversed in the last two years.

We feel

there is more room for cross-investments,

We welcome Canadian private investments
in the Community.

And we could certainly be prepared

And we would certainly be prepared
to contribute,
if you wish so,
with our capital and know-how in the huge energy investments
Canada will have to develop in the Arctics
in the next decades,

It was always clear
that to make the Framework Agreement a practical reality
was a long-term process,

I am proud to say
the present infrastructure
is a solid instrument
and one that proves its usefulness in difficult times

In a world of diminishing assurance about the future,
it is all the more important
to have established,
thanks to our Framework Agreement,
a forward-looking,
stimulating
and at the same time flexible long-term cooperation.
