

# European Community

## News Release

### FIRST MEETING BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

A delegation of 18 members of the new European Parliament, composed of members of the various political parties and led by Sir John Stewart-Clark, will be in Ottawa for discussions with Canadian parliamentarians from 26 to 30 November. This is the first meeting between members of the newly elected European Parliament and Canadian parliamentarians and the seventh in a series of parliamentary visits, instituted in 1974.

Featured in the delegation's programme are meetings with a number of ministers in the Canadian government, including the Prime Minister himself, Mr. Joe Clark. These discussions will allow the members of the European Parliament to acquaint themselves with many aspects of Canada's political, economic and social life.

Following these discussions the European parliamentary delegation will hold two days of meetings with Canadian parliamentarians. Among the subjects on the agenda are:

- recent developments in Canada and Europe (such as elections) and forthcoming events (such as the second enlargement of the European Community and the European Parliament's own future activities);
- questions directly concerning both partners such as:
  - i) the implementation of the EC-Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation which came into effect on 1 October 1976 (this agreement is of a very special nature and is the first which the European Community concluded with an industrialized country);
  - ii) an exchange of views on bilateral issues and an examination of the difficulties affecting the export of certain products (e.g. cheese, footwear, alcoholic beverages, etc.), difficulties which persist equally for Canadians wishing to export to Europe, as for Europeans wishing to export to Canada.

The delegations will then broach the subject of fisheries and the renegotiation of the EC-Canada fisheries agreement which is due to expire on 31 December 1979, as well as the organization of fishing in the north Atlantic and the problems of salmon fishing.

../2

The two delegations will then go on to examine the situation concerning the extension or renegotiation of the EC-Canada bilateral nuclear agreement.

Discussions will also occur on multilateral problems which are nevertheless of particular concern to both Canada and Europe, e.g. energy and all related aspects (such as supplies, prices, conservation, alternative energy, new technologies, as well as nuclear non-proliferation).

Finally the talks will end on a subject important to both Canada and the European Community: the fate of the refugees in Indochina.

The delegation of the European Parliament hopes that these discussions will be fruitful and that the delegations will succeed in clarifying certain problems and, in particular, those related to trade. It should not be forgotten that the European Community is Canada's second most important trading partner, after the United States.

The European parliamentary delegation, composed of new members, is desirous to maintain and indeed strengthen its ties with Canada's members of Parliament.

It is perhaps significant and certainly will not escape the comprehension of Canada's parliamentarians that the newly-elected European Parliament has chosen Canada as the country to which it has sent its first official delegation.

\*\*\*\*\*