

I don't believe this opinion is going to change, whereas it seems to me that the opposition to her entry has been limited largely to the Government of France. And we know that even within France there are several opinions on this matter. I think that French opinion is more likely to change than the British one.

Nobody can presume to talk for all sectors of opinion, because there are still differences. And some people believe that if this application were to be blocked, Britain might feel a revulsion against Europe and turn elsewhere. But my judgment is clearly against that. I believe that the concept of the organization of the Western World to which my country is likely to adhere with a great deal of determination is what you might call the grand design of two communities, one on each side of the Atlantic, with Britain being a part of the European Community. I believe very strongly that that is the sanest pattern that has as yet been put forward at any time. And just because it has run into difficulties I don't think we ought to give it up.

I would like to make a brief comment on the proposal which is talked about nowadays for the North Atlantic Free Trade Area. As I understand it, this is being propounded in this country largely by people whose first preference would be for seeing Britain inside the Community, and they think of the free trade area as an alternative only if Britain is excluded. They see it to some extent as a tactic for persuading the members of the present Community to allow their Community to be enlarged.

I don't myself feel a strong appeal in this. I think it is significant that in Britain it is supported almost entirely by those who do not in any case wish Britain to join Europe. There is a fear among the majority in Britain who do wish to join the Community that a proposal of this kind would not bring any pressure on Britain's friends to help them into the Community, but on the other hand would cast doubt upon her continuing determination to become a part of Europe.

The second point about our relations with the Community is that if, as I believe, we do eventually join it, this will, of course, change our attitude to certain particular tariffs in tariff negotiations, because we would then be inside the common tariff barrier instead of outside it. But I do not believe it would change the general attitude of my country toward what your Trade Expansion Act called open and nondiscriminatory trading in the free world.

We would, of course, from the time we got in, be negotiating as part of the Community. And therefore it is of great importance to us to assess what the attitude of the Community in general has been determined to be in these negotiations.

The first point, which is of great significance to the whole world trading community, is that the European Commission succeeded in negotiating for the whole body of six countries, despite the fact that they started with many differences of policy. And I think that this is an indication that the Community today has the lasting power to go forward.

Moreover, it emerged from a very difficult period of internal dispute and conflicts strong enough to be able to show considerable flexibility, and a degree of liberalism toward the end of the negotiations. I feel that the fear that many people had 3 or 4 years ago, which continued