

This image may be compared to the layers of an onion, and there are three principal layers around the Atlantic core:

The special relationship countries; the great outside development regions; and areas of later development.

This concept of the world of the seventies, is again geopolitical. But it makes sense, not least when we consider it from the socio-economic development angle and understand that development, though it be a global issue, cannot be promoted everywhere at the same time nor at an equal rate and with equal success.

In the first layer there are groups of countries which, for different reasons, such as tradition, culture, geographical position and level of development are in a special relation with the Atlantic countries.

We should not spare any effort nor leave any stone unturned in order to have them develop as rapidly and as homogeneously as possible with respect to the Atlantic area during the next decade.

#### OPERATION EASTERN EUROPE

First among them is Eastern Europe. We can foresee that these countries will tend to gravitate ever more toward Western Europe as they gradually develop and increase their foreign trade and also because of the consequences of peaceful engagement policies towards the East. Operation Eastern Europe should, however, be geared to Operation USSR of which we will speak in a moment.

This new rapprochement between two groups of European peoples which have been historically engaged in trade, alliances and wars, and which are bound by a common culture, may represent a basic feature of the coming decade. Furthermore, it represents a *sine qua non* condition for the coming together of the two Germanies with a view towards a later reunification; it is therefore the keystone for resolving one of the great problems which has remained unsolved so far.

A second group consists of the non-European countries of the Mediterranean basin which are linked to Europe more than to any other region or country. The reciprocal attraction between them and Europe is likely to increase in the near future, again under the spur of growing trade, coupled with investment and tourism and the complementary nature of the two areas in terms of demand and supply of manpower.

Europe should see that it is not only to her advantage but also her mission to develop these countries, which in any case cannot do the job themselves. The concept that the Mediterranean basin—as a development area—is a prolongation of Europe serves the interests of all the peoples around its shores and by extension the interests of the Atlantic Community itself. Probably the thorny problem concerning Israel and the Arabs could, with strong United States backing, find a solution in this enlarged European framework.

A similar special relationship is that linking the United States with the peoples living in the great continental and insular expanse immediately to her South.

#### THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AREA

This is an area to which the United States is obviously rather sensitive. It includes the Caribbean countries (Cuba as well, in due course), those grouped in the Central American Common Market, and Mexico although she is a member of LAFTA and deserves a position of her own. It is of prime interest to all these countries that one of the main objectives of the Atlantic Community, and the United States for sure, should be that of helping them draw up and implement a long-term growth and modernization plan.

Finally, the developed countries of the Pacific: Australia, New Zealand and Japan, also participate in the Atlantic area of progress and prosperity although they do not directly belong to it. The same is probably true for the Philippines.

All countries belonging to this first layer are in one way or another a logical extension of the Atlantic Community and should be considered as such. They can receive immense benefits from their integration into or association with the Atlantic Community, while keeping their own national characteristics and their own political philosophy and institutions.

If these achievements and developments are feasible, it would be unforgivable if the Western countries did not plan ahead this way. The urgency is such that from this very moment the United States and the European nations should consult on how to cooperate and lead these first layer countries towards a future of progress within the Atlantic framework.

The second layer is represented by two great regions: the Soviet Union and South America. It will depend on their amalgamation into the Atlantic area