

Mr. Chairman,

I should like first to express my appreciation to the Canada-Japan Trade Council for an invitation to attend this gathering. I am glad to have an opportunity to speak to you on a subject which is assuming increasing importance in our foreign policy and increasing relevance to our national interest - our relations with Japan.

I am also pleased to greet my friend the Japanese Ambassador. We have both very recently participated in a most interesting and useful series of consultations with members of the Japanese Government in Ottawa.

I appreciate the courtesy and goodwill of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta in attending today's luncheon.

It is scarcely necessary for me to emphasize that Canadian relations with Japan are important. The presence here of many representatives of commercial concerns provides abundant evidence of the significance that is being attached in this province, as in other Western provinces, to the contacts and exchanges we have with our Japanese neighbours across the Pacific. For instance, Premier Manning, Mr. Patrick, the Minister of Industry and Development of Alberta and Mayor Dantzer of Edmonton paid an official visit to Japan last May.

I would like, however, to underline some of the reasons why relations with this major industrial power are important to our national interest.

I think it would also be appropriate for me to take this occasion to review some of the questions discussed at the Canada-Japan Ministerial Committee meetings earlier this month.

Our relations with Japan must be considered against the whole background of world affairs past and present. Only in that wider