

political understanding and cultural contacts on which all the elements of any relationship depend. I believe that my attendance at the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur a few days ago is an indication of both these trends in our approach.

Canada's economic interests in the Pacific will both intensify and diversify. The expansion of economic activity in western Canada has made this course inevitable, and a number of provincial governments have already stepped up their activities in the region. This year, for example, the government of Alberta will open offices in Hong Kong to promote further commercial and other economic links. It is precisely this "complementarity" between western Canada and the Pacific region that has become the vital element in our presence here.

But interest in the Pacific is not confined to western Canada. Our central provinces of Ontario and Quebec are also playing more active roles, and doing so with great effect. The Ontario government, for example, like Alberta, will this year open an office in Hong Kong.

For its part, the federal government will continue to represent all of Canada's interests. As you know, Canadians are now in the process of reviewing and revising their constitution. A few weeks ago, the people of Quebec voted in a referendum to remain within the Canadian confederation, thus averting a very difficult situation within our country. At the same time, it is felt that the time has come to make changes in our constitution which align with present-day realities, and that process is going ahead at this time. But the federal government will fulfil its role of meeting the needs of all parts of Canada, and the policies which we pursue in this part of the world will be no exception.

At the present time, for example, the federal government is refining its techniques and tactics in the economic and trade spheres. We are proposing revisions to the Bank Act which will permit greater reciprocity with other countries in that field. We are currently reviewing a number of bilateral agreements with Pacific nations, seeking ways to modernize mechanisms or to establish new ones where gaps exist in order to improve mutually beneficial trade and capital flows.

But Canada is not coming to the Pacific region in the 1980s simply as a trader looking for markets. A nation as dependent on trade as Canada can ill afford purely self-serving approaches. Rather, we want to build relationships which will benefit all concerned through trade, industrial co-operation, investment, technological exchanges and other relationships. We believe that the growing economic interdependence within the Pacific region calls for such sophisticated and responsible policies. It also calls for a broad strategy in our foreign affairs which will advance contacts between people in all walks of life for educational and academic exchanges and for the dissemination of cultural information. We feel that, in time, these approaches will provide a richer and more rewarding international experience for the people of the region.

These are the main lines of Canada's strategy *vis-à-vis* the Pacific during the 1980s; let

Provincial
offices in
Hong Kong

Trade not the
sole interest