

In this respect, I must say that our initial approaches to Europe have been quite encouraging. As you know, the Prime Minister of Canada has recently visited all member states of the European Community as well as the Commission in Brussels. Discussions between officials have sufficiently advanced to enable the Commission to recommend to the Council of Ministers the negotiation of an agreement between the Community and Canada. For this reason, and although the main instrument for the strengthening of our economic links with Europe will remain in the foreseeable future bilateral industrial co-operation with each member state, our objective has become known as the negotiation of a "contractual link" with Europe.

I can assure you, on behalf of the Canadian Government, that our new foreign policy outlook places equal emphasis on the intensification of our relations with Japan. I already noted, at the beginning of my remarks, the political commitment which our two Prime Ministers jointly made in the communiqué issued after the visit to Canada, last September of then Prime Minister Tanaka. I can now say that the Seventh Meeting of the Canada/Japan Ministerial Committee, which ended yesterday, has been most encouraging and will lead to a series of exploratory talks between officials of our two governments on a wide range of subjects: industrial co-operation, resource and energy development, agricultural co-operation, scientific and technological projects, among others.

This deeper and broader relationship must be peaceful, because both of our countries seek to maintain friendly relations with all countries and have renounced the use of nuclear arms. It must be a true partnership, going much beyond bilateral trade, which nevertheless will benefit greatly from it; and it would focus mainly on the Pacific region, given the geopolitical situation of our two countries. Furthermore, we would expect that our partnership would extend to other regions of the world and will be of benefit to many other countries.

"But why do you suddenly wish to have closer relations with us?" some of our Japanese friends ask sometimes. Quite aside from the fundamental political motivation which I have just explained, the reasons why Canada should strive to broaden and deepen her relations with Japan are so numerous that I can only recount a few of them today. Your country has become, in the last ten years, the third largest industrialized economy in the world, ranking immediately behind the United States and the Soviet Union. Your annual GNP is now very close to \$400 billion and I am fully confident that as we reach the point of recovery in the present economic cycle, growth will resume in Japan at a high rate, even if the fantastic performance of the sixties does not repeat itself.