

STATEMENTS:

While we [the Liberal Party] are still new in office and we have undoubtedly much to refine in fully developing our Asia-Pacific trade strategy, I can see four key building blocks. First, we must recognize that the Asia-Pacific region challenges us to be more competitive and to be better prepared to meet our own national agenda.... Second, co-operation with the private sector and with other players, including the provinces, is key.... Third, on the trade policy front, we must do everything we can to improve global trade rules;.... The final building block will be to complement our multilateral efforts with regional efforts.... I will travel on from Vancouver to Seattle tomorrow morning to participate in the fifth Ministerial Meeting of APEC -- the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum -- which brings together ministers from 15 of the most dynamic of the world's economies.... I would expect that what we are about to do in Seattle this week will be more about little steps than big leaps. But they will still be steps on the path toward freer, more transparent, more rule-based Pacific trade. I am convinced that this is a path worth embarking on and I pledge to you this government's support in ensuring that your interests are first and foremost in our minds as we take these early steps.

An Address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the Vancouver Board of Trade (Vancouver, British Columbia, November 16, 1993, No. 93/62).

If there is one message I want to leave you with today, it is that the new Liberal government is well aware that the Pacific century is now. My party has always recognized the importance of Asia-Pacific. Indeed, it was a Liberal government under Pierre Trudeau that, in the late Sixties, took the bold decision to begin negotiations to establish diplomatic relations with China. This marked a key step in breaking the international isolation of China and welcoming it back into the community of nations. In recognizing the People's Republic of China, Canada was a leader, not a follower. Our government will continue in this forward-looking tradition when it comes to Asia-Pacific.... We shall vigorously pursue Canadian interests in the Asia-Pacific region. This is one of the reasons that the new Liberal government appointed a Secretary of State, Asia-Pacific, within the portfolio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Raymond Chan, Member of Parliament for Richmond, is, I am sure, well-known to many of you. I know that he will be a great asset to Canada's endeavours in the Pacific Rim.... For Canada to be successful in the Asia-Pacific region, we need to concentrate our efforts on two things. First, we must improve the competence and competitiveness of Canadian companies in these complex markets. Second, we must increase our share of exports of high technology and value-added products.

An Address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the Canada China Trade Council (Vancouver, British Columbia, November 13, 1993, No. 93/61).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| September 21-
December, 1993: | 48th United Nations General Assembly (New York) |
| November 18-19, 1993: | 5th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Meeting (Seattle) |
| November 30-
December 1, 1993: | Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe
Council of Ministers Meeting (Rome) |
| December 2-3, 1993: | NATO North Atlantic Council and
North Atlantic Co-operation Council Meetings (Brussels) |
| January 1994: | NATO Summit (Brussels) |
| March 1994: | Inter-American Development Bank Annual Meeting (Guadalajara) |
| June 1994: | OAS Annual Assembly (Belem, Brasil) |

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