

We should not be surprised that what we have been saying for centuries works when those words become deeds. Asia's energies and Asia's accomplishments provide many lessons for us all to learn. And they are a model for Eastern Europe, for Africa and for Latin America. These countries were once poor. They have been ravaged by war, some very recently. Their accomplishments are dramatic.

A Canadian approach to the Pacific should reflect the successes of societies in that region. This a matter too important to be left to governments alone. The contribution of industry and individuals is key. I know some of you have been active in the Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference, in the work of the Pacific Basin Economic Council and in the many bilateral business associations which have been formed with our trans-Pacific partners. The Government looks forward to - and depends upon - your continued commitment.

There is a second point to be made. Our preoccupation with Europe has focused on building a fabric of common security between the Soviet Union, the countries of Western, Central and Eastern Europe, and the North American continent. In one sense, we are replacing a partial peace in Europe with a peace which is whole. And we are building a new framework for European prosperity. But in another sense, that European peace and prosperity will still be partial if we are not able to benefit from bringing Asia into the new Europe now being built. This relates not only to the danger of regional blocs I noted earlier. It also relates to the extraordinary talents and resources which Pacific nations can bring to the tasks of economic reconstruction and trade expansion. We have before us the opportunity to create not simply a new Europe, but a region of security and prosperity which circles the globe.

To say that Canada is a Pacific nation is not to report a geographic fact. It is to assert a common interest. It is to declare a future. It is to commit to a course of action. And it is to assert unique advantages, advantages which come from our considerable trade, our human links, our experience in peacekeeping, our status as provider of one of the best aid programs in the region and our reputation as a stable, reliable and major player even though we are not a superpower.

Communities of nations, like communities of individuals, are more than just an aggregate sum of transactions. Communities reflect common values. They behave in certain ways. They engage in dialogue. They seek mutual advantage and avoid unilateral gain. And in so doing, they build an organic fabric of peace and prosperity which can withstand pressure and which therefore endures.