

On a political level, we consult frequently with Japan on all major global and regional issues. Most recently at the Economic Summit in Toronto last week and here this week with Foreign Minister Uno. We share views on major East/West issues, on our respective relations and concerns with the Soviet Union and especially on Asian and Pacific questions.

What happens on this side of the Pacific is and has been important to Canada. Our part in the Korean conflict, our participation in nineteen years of peace and supervisory commissions in Indochina, and our current participation in the international observer force in Afghanistan, our status as a dialogue partner to ASEAN; all these bear witness to our Asian commitment.

A new and dynamic presence here in Tokyo is only one of the many steps that my government has taken to recognize the importance of Canada's Pacific connections. Two major initiatives of the last three years have borne witness to the priority of Japan in our national agenda.

The National Trade Strategy adopted in 1985 established the United States and Asia/Pacific as the highest priority regions for Canada's export efforts. New posts were opened in Osaka, Auckland, Bombay and Shanghai. An office of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan.

And then in 1986 we adopted our Strategy for Japan, the second bilateral strategy adopted by my government following that which led us to negotiate the historic free trade agreement with the United States.

We have embarked on programs to demonstrate that we are a dynamic country open for business. And Japan has responded.

- Japanese cars are rolling off assembly lines in Canada.

- Investments in coal, copper and canola have been announced, and collaboration in the forestry sector has been expanded.

- Joint ventures have been established to produce computer disks and colour television tubes for Canadian and third-country markets.

Partnerships such as these have demonstrated a strong Japanese faith in Canada's future economic health and wealth. To those of you from the business community who have joined us today, I applaud your judgement, your determination and your recognition that Canada has become a great economic success story.

Two years ago, Mr. Kanao of the Keidenran brought to Canada a high level group of Japanese business people who saw our dynamism and our promise first hand. Their report attested to the existence of "a new Canada, a high-technology Canada".