

Mr. Kanao, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to address this distinguished forum of business leaders.

It was a pleasure for me to welcome you and the members of your mission to Canada last month, Mr. Kanao. The positive tone of your report today is in keeping with your remarks at the press conference in Ottawa at the conclusion of your visit.

You said then that the mission discovered a "new Canada". You found "Investment Canada" seeking new investment, a new spirit of national reconciliation and a better labour climate.

Canada's traditional role as a major supplier of natural resources to Japan would continue. But you made it clear that Japan must deal with the new Canada by increasing imports of Canadian manufactured goods and by exploring opportunities for technology transfer, joint ventures and investment especially in manufacturing.

This is a firm foundation upon which we can construct an expanded bilateral economic relationship.

Prime Minister Mulroney has particularly asked me to convey his appreciation for your efforts, Mr. Kanao, and those of the Keidanren. The Prime Minister is strongly committed to seeing the relationship between Canada and Japan develop to its full potential. He asked me to lead a mission to Japan at the earliest opportunity to build upon the encouraging conclusions of the mission's visit.

Our government's statement of its priorities during the opening of the latest session of parliament highlighted the importance of Japan. Subsequently my Cabinet colleagues and I adopted a strategy intended to provide both leadership and coordination as governments, business and labour focus on Japan:

Our plan of action involves:

- closer political contacts in government and parliament to explore shared interests in such diverse areas as regional security, economic stability and global peace;
- stimulating expanded and equitable trade flows;
- making Canada an attractive destination for Japanese investment;
- stimulating technology acquisition and development as well as industrial cooperation;