

period from 1977 to 1979, our exports to you more than doubled. In 1979, two-way trade between Canada and Hong Kong reached almost 2,280 million Hong Kong dollars (\$570 million Canadian). Seven Canadian banks now have offices in Hong Kong. And in its role as Canada's gateway to Asia we can reasonably expect that trade and commercial activity will greatly expand in the period ahead. You have unique channels of contact with the People's Republic of China and are at the centre of one of the great economic success stories of our time. These facts alone justify our intense interest in broadening our relationship with you.

But economic reasons are not the only ones for strengthening our links. A number of historical human factors also prevail. During the past two decades, for example, thousands of men and women from Hong Kong have emigrated to Canada and have made a major contribution to our country's rich cultural mosaic. They have expanded the family ties that draw us together. In addition, thousands of young people from Hong Kong have been educated in our universities and have returned here to play important roles in Hong Kong's economic life and in government. These contacts have enriched the human dimension of our relationship by promoting understanding and creating life-long friendships.

In closing, I thank you again for this opportunity to address you. I hope it will not be the last. In any event, the people of Canada and those of Hong Kong will be seeing a good deal more of each other in the future, a fact that is pleasant to contemplate and which will also be of mutual benefit.