

They will add empathy to our Asia-Pacific ties, the kind of cultural affinity so long of benefit to our North American and European links. Much of our success in realizing our aspirations in business will have to do with the success we have in linking our peoples.

I have been trying to do my part and I will continue to do so. I will visit South Korea later this month, meet with members of the new cabinet there and discuss how to strengthen the unique "Special Partnership" we have embarked upon, especially in areas such as science and technology, third-country alliances and co-operation on political and security questions.

I will visit Hong Kong on the same trip, and reinforce Canada's commitment to Hong Kong's vitality and stability in the lead-up to 1997 and to continued support beyond 1997.

In March, I will join business representatives in a visit to Pakistan and India, ensuring that Canada takes full advantage of opportunities too long overlooked, opportunities reinforced by impressive initiatives taken in promoting economic reform and trade liberalization. At the same time, I will register our support for regional security and non-proliferation objectives. I will renew our commitment to sustainable development and poverty alleviation through our development co-operation programs.

What I want to stress is the need to address our relationships across a broad spectrum of activity and issues. Single-dimension, quick-fix approaches do not suit the situation in the Asia-Pacific and will not work for Canada. This same outlook should guide our thinking here in Canada. That is why we have worked with the Asia Pacific Foundation and others, such as the David Lam Centre here in Vancouver, to increase training in Asian languages and cross-cultural communications - not just as an intellectual exercise but as a tool for business development.

It underlines the importance of the round tables organized last year by the Asia Pacific Foundation on Asian Canadians. We can build on our multicultural setting, where 5 per cent of the population is of Asian origin and possesses skills that are of great value to our efforts.

As Sheila Finestone and I will emphasize during today's launching of the joint Canadian Heritage and Asia Pacific Foundation report entitled *Canada's Hidden Advantage: Asian Canadians*, Asian Canadians contribute knowledge, language skills, business experience and contacts from their countries of origin that are valuable in establishing and strengthening Canada's economic ties with the Asia-Pacific region.

Our government's commitment to fully rounded and forward-looking relationships is marked, I believe, by the creation of a network of