

We have complementary strengths and similar ideals. Japan's strengths are obvious, as an economic superpower and as a major political power. But so are Canada's.

We are experienced at multilateralism, at institution-building, at the development of rule-based international systems, at peacekeeping, at conflict resolution and at promoting dialogue. We were prime movers in the UN system from the beginning.

My message to Japan is a simple one: recognize your strength and share our experience and abilities, just as we recognize our strengths and share your experiences and abilities.

We are of the same mind in aspiring to world peace. We see a Japan that has chosen a path of peace and economic development and that has not been a party to conflicts. We know that Japan has no desire to extend its military power for national gain. We see it as natural for Japan to express its leadership and its desire for peace through internationalism -- to put its strengths to work for the world.

Canada and Japan make a great team precisely because of our experience, our networks of important relationships that we have each carefully developed, and our shared aspirations.

The potential for Canada-Japan co-operation bilaterally, regionally and globally was a central theme of the Report of Canada-Japan Forum 2000. This distinguished bilateral body made a number of recommendations to our prime ministers that are now under careful study in both countries. Significantly, these recommendations have encompassed:

- strengthened co-operation at the G-7 table;
- further co-operation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping;
- greater efforts to have larger communities in each of our countries engaged in our bilateral relationships through cultural exchanges and academic links; and
- environmental co-operation in such areas as protection of the resources of the North Pacific Ocean.

The Pacific century is upon us. Opportunities and challenges abound. Canada and Japan are uniquely equipped together to contribute to help shape this new century and ensure its direction.

This river will pass us only once. Let us learn from the lessons of history and prepare ourselves to follow its course, knowledgeably and confidently, as friends and fellow travellers.