

romantic stage for enactment of the great drama of creating a new world civilization through the convergence of two civilizations.

Japan is a part of Asia and shares many common values with western civilization; Canada, which has close historical links to Europe and the United States and diverse cultures within the nation, is looking increasingly toward the Pacific in recent years. Our two nations must play out together our important roles as main actors in this drama.

Let me, in closing, express my fervent hope that the everlasting friendship and co-operation between Japan and Canada will bear abundant fruit for the future of our planet Earth.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

Thank you very much.

Hon. Martial Asselin (Speaker pro tempore of the Senate): Your Excellency, we are pleased and honoured by your presence in this Chamber, where we have invited you to speak to the Canadian people. We have listened with the utmost interest to the message you have brought us from your Parliament. I trust that your address will encourage us to pursue our efforts to meet our objectives of co-operation.

When the Canadian Government decided many years ago to place particular emphasis on the development and expansion of relations between Canada and Japan, it was because it recognized the emergence of this country as a world power whose considerable interests were situated mostly, but not exclusively, in the area of international trade. Being one of the major trading nations, Japan has been playing for many years a key role in the management of the world economy. Moreover, like Canada, Japan is an industrialized country which shares our democratic ideals and wants to react efficiently to an increasingly complex economic and political situation on the international scene. It is therefore in the interest of both our countries to increase our contacts on international issues.

Moreover, Japan has a vast domestic market for Canadian goods and services as well as the means to take part in the development of Canada, for instance through needed investments in this country. We must therefore conclude that increased relations with Japan based on greater co-operation and closer ties in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields correspond to the objectives of Canada to build a healthy national economy and reduce its economic vulnerability.

[English]

The framework for economic co-operation and the Canada-Japan Cultural Agreement signed ten years ago embodied the principles of a new relationship in each of these areas. Since then continued co-operation between our two countries has produced significant results and progress, particularly in the trade and economic sectors. Thus trade has increased threefold. Japan is Canada's second biggest trading partner and Canada is one of Japan's major suppliers of important natural

resources and energy. Three years ago the Canadian Government prepared a market development plan for Japan to assist the public and private sectors to expand business in your country. The plan identified export opportunities in targeted industrial sectors which are consistent with Canadian production capabilities. The resource, petrochemical, agricultural and manufactured products sectors were identified as a priority.

Detailed discussions will take place between yourself and the Canadian counterparts of your delegation on bilateral and multilateral issues which are of interest to both our countries. We anticipate positive results from these contacts and exchanges and I am convinced you share our expectations.

[Translation]

Mr. Prime Minister, there is therefore no doubt that the commercial and economic relations between our two countries will develop even more in the future.

In closing, I would like to appeal to Canadian businessmen, academics, scientists, and all those who play an important role in the Canadian society to support our efforts so that our two countries can reach the goals they have set for themselves.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Prime Minister, on behalf of the Hon. Members of this House of Commons, I wish to thank you for sharing your eloquent vision of Japan's relationship with Canada and its successes and accomplishments as well as your expectations for the coming years. There are many ties and common interests that bind us and help us co-operate in building a peaceful and more prosperous world with institutions emphasizing the principles of fraternity and freedom exemplified in both our countries.

[Translation]

Throughout the years, we have consolidated and intensified our bilateral relations, not only for trade and investment, but also in the social and cultural areas, such as tourism, sports, education, theater and youth.

[English]

And as I am sure you know, Sir, this year represents a bit of a watershed for parliamentary relations between our two countries, as you can see the first creation of a full Canada-Japan Parliamentary Association. Sir, we hope that our increased exchange in all areas, whether political, economic, social or cultural will enhance the respect and friendship of our peoples towards one another. I think, Sir, I can say on behalf of all our Members here that you came to us with a great advanced publicity, and your speech today, Sir, has lived up to it completely. I say that, Sir, as one who was only born in 1947.

On behalf of all my Members we wish to extend to you, to your wife, to the members of your official delegation, an excellent and a fruitful visit to our country.

This House now stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow.