

some members for these committees from the appropriate countries of the region.

(v) FUNDING

On the basis of my study, I do not hesitate to say that there is broad, general support for the level of funding required to create an Asia Pacific Foundation and make it operational. Although we are now in very difficult economic times, there is an informed consensus that it is imperative that Canada use whatever financial resources we have as a country in a future-building way.

Most interested Canadians are very much aware that our future is undeniably linked to the activity of the Asia Pacific region. They point to the one area of optimism in our economy – the increase of our trade with Asian and Pacific countries – and insist that we must not be timid in pursuing our long term interests there. They believe there is an urgent need to create an infrastructure that would enable us to realize our potential within the region. Arguing, that to waste any time now in setting up the sufficient funds will not only cost more money later, they also warn that it will make it more difficult to catch up with the countries that already have a substantial head start.

Therefore, in order for an Asia Pacific Foundation to be successful, it must be well financed from the beginning, and the amount and timing of the funding must relate directly to what we want the Foundation to achieve. Any attempt to give the Foundation less than these guidelines would foredoom it from the outset.

In deciding on the level of funding, it is useful to look at the experiences of other similar kinds of foundations in other countries.

The Japan Foundation was launched in 1972 with an initial endowment of 5 billion yen (25 million dollars)*, increasing annually to the total of 48.5 billion yen (245 million dollars) by 1981. In that same year, the operating budget of the Japan Foundation reached the equivalent of 24 million dollars annually, representing the interest earned on the endowment fund.

The Japan Foundation likes to compare its own level of activities to those of West Germany's Goethe Institute, the British Council and the United States International Communications Agency. In 1981, the annual operating budget of the Goethe Institute was 87 million dollars, that of the British Council 239 million dollars and the International Communications Agency 483 million dollars.

In the case of the Australia-Japan Foundation, which is only concerned with one country, albeit for Australia at this stage the most important country, their annual budget is in excess of 1.8 million Australian dollars or 2.3 million Canadian dollars.

* The conversion figures into Canadian dollars are based on the exchange rate as of August 1982.