

symphony orchestras to "peewee" hockey teams from North York, visiting Japan.

There are so many aspects of our relationship with Japan or about Japan itself to make a topic or topics for speeches to Canadian audiences. To the appropriate audience, the educational system in Japan is one of immense fascination. Entry to the appropriate university, where entry itself is a stamp of future success, is the eye of the needle that is looked at by each parent when the child is born, and requires all the skill of every mother to make sure the child first enters the right kindergarten, a stepping-stone to the right elementary school, and in turn to junior high school, and then the all-important high school from which the university entrance exam will be written. The trauma and pressure this system bring to bear is beyond comprehension.

So much for the topics that I decided not to choose today.

Let me briefly refer to another dimension. That is the partnership we enjoy -- we, Canada and Japan -- in an interdependent world. In this troubled world, Canada and Japan are bound both to the rest of the industrialized world and to each other. First, we are both industrialized countries. Second, we both depend, to a large extent, for our own prosperity on the expansion of world trade, the peace and stability this requires. Third, our economies are in many ways complementary, which makes us natural trading partners for many things. Fourth, we have voices that, when raised internationally, are listened to, although Canada's voice has been heard more loudly and more often for its size and importance than has that of Japan in the postwar era. Fifth, we have both eschewed nuclear weapons as an option for our national security. And sixth -- well, I could go on some distance further, but you get the point. These similarities presumably should lead our two countries to be natural partners bound by respective self-interests and united in seeking to achieve the finest objectives of the international community. Right? Wrong!

Certainly, we are partners. Certainly, we are important to each other. Just as certainly, that relationship has been expanding and strengthening, particularly in the last few years, but that is not to say that it is either an easy relationship or, indeed, a natural one. For all the elements that bring us together, there are many that have to be overcome that would otherwise keep us apart -- the mainstream of our histories, the geographical distances, will always separate us, very distinct cultural differences and a very different conception of nation and self. To remove these obstacles to understanding and co-operation is difficult, requiring patience and much hard work; keeping those obstacles out of the way once they have

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