

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. It is a privilege to address once again a combined luncheon of the Canada-Japan Society and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan. My last visit was only 14 months ago. What a difference a short 14 months has made. In that time, we have seen several important developments in the economic relationship between Japan and Canada. In fact, so much that is positive has happened in these 14 months, I could spend all my time today simply reviewing the history.

Let me recall just one important highlight, the world's fair, EXPO '86, held in my home town of Vancouver. The theme of EXPO '86, the world's achievement in transportation and communications, was particularly important to countries of the Pacific Rim.

Japan made an important contribution to EXPO '86. The Japanese Pavillion was one of the largest on the site, conveying the vitality and imagination of Japan.

Another significant Japanese contribution to EXPO '86 is the magnificent Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver.

In keeping with the theme of EXPO '86, we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the completion of the Canadian Pacific railway and the founding of our great Pacific Port, Vancouver.

One of the main objectives of the Canadian Pacific Railway was Trans-Pacific trade. Trans-Pacific trade was important to Canada in 1886 and it is more important today. Trade and transportation increase the opportunities for cooperation and understanding between countries.

Our Government's statement of its priorities during the opening of the latest session of Parliament highlighted the importance of Japan. Last week the Canadian Cabinet adopted a strategy intended to provide both leadership and coordination as Governments, business and labour focus on Japan.

Our plan of action involves:

- (1) closer political contacts in Government and Parliament to explore shared interests in such diverse areas as regional security, economic stability and global peace. This is a point I will emphasize in my meeting with Foreign Minister Kuranari;
- (2) stimulating an expanded and equitable trade flow;
- (3) making Canada an attractive destination for Japanese investment;
- (4) expanding financial market activity;