

METHOD OF STUDY

The method of study was to elicit the views of all those interested in the creation of an Asia Pacific Foundation to determine whether there was a common thread of argument running through them. The study was conducted through a series of:

- a) interviews, meetings, correspondence with individuals and representatives of business, universities, government, labour, media, the arts, museums and governments at the federal, provincial and municipal levels,
- b) discussions with representatives of major existing foreign and Canadian foundations,
- c) separate meetings with the Pacific-Asia Cultural and Economic Exchange Society of Victoria and the Vancouver Mokuyokai Group, and
- d) participation in three symposiums sponsored by The University of Toronto and York University jointly, The University of Montreal, and The University of British Columbia.

As the study progressed, I found that there was a very genuine concern and interest in Asia and the Pacific among the young, professionals, independent businessmen, large corporations, religious groups, journalists, students, as well as labour leaders and politicians. I discovered too that this interest was generated, not only in the West where it might be expected, but also in Central and Eastern Canada. In addition, the university symposiums, organized independently of the study, attracted speakers and participants from many different areas of activity from across the country. They made a valuable contribution to the study and in themselves were a significant measure of the widespread interest the foundation idea has generated.

Significantly, by the end of the study there emerged from coast to coast, spontaneous and substantial agreement by the representatives of business, government, and academia that Canadians must waste no time in enlarging their understanding and awareness of the social and economic changes that have shaped Asia and the Pacific in the last decade, if we are not to fall irreparably behind as a leading economic partner of the region. It was further recognized that this task was impossible without, at the same time, endeavouring to understand and appreciate the different cultures and value systems which determine how these populations live.

There was as well, the beginning of a consensus that a specific Asia Pacific Foundation could achieve two important and related goals. First, it would serve as a visible commitment of Canada's continuing determination to develop stable and beneficial relationships with all the Asian and Pacific nations based upon mutual respect and understanding. Second, it would serve to create a much needed 'idea forum' wherein Canadians from all walks of life could begin to study and plan our long-term role in an emerging Pacific community.