

HIGHLIGHTS
of
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
of the
REPORT
of the
STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Respecting
CANADIAN RELATIONS
with the countries of the
PACIFIC REGION

GENERAL

While Canada cannot attempt to adopt uniform general policies toward the heterogeneous group of countries found in the Western Pacific Rim, an overall attitude and approach of increased Canadian involvement in the whole Pacific region is not only possible but essential.

It is probably only in the economic field that Canada can at present be called "a Pacific power". Canadian trade and investment relations in this area provide immense economic benefits to Canadians, including new opportunities for the diversification of Canada's overall economic interests. This alone is an insufficient basis for Canada's future relationships in the region. Pacific countries are anxious to see what role Canada will play in the achievement of regional peace and security and in co-operative action to share the benefits of economic development with the disadvantaged countries.

I THE BASIS FOR INVOLVEMENT

AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

The Committee's evidence has indicated that Pacific Asia is the least familiar to Canadians of all the world's great zones of civilization. Canada lags behind other developed countries of the region, and some of the less developed, in generating a regional consciousness of the Pacific Rim and in acquiring the necessary knowledge and expertise. The Committee has therefore concluded that a large-scale and concerted national effort to improve Canadian understanding of the Pacific region is a vital pre-requisite to broader and more fruitful Canadian involvement.