

A Pacific 2000 Projects Fund will offer support to Canadian activities in the region.

A number of upcoming events in the region will enable us to get our messages across. This is the 60th Anniversary of our bilateral relationship with Japan. In 1991 we will be opening our dramatic new Embassy in Tokyo which will serve as a showpiece for Canadian commercial and cultural interests and as a centre for research on Canada and on Japan.

We will also take on promotional activities in the region and support visits by key Asians and Canadians - Parliamentarians, young leaders, journalists - to each others countries. We will assist in attracting Asian students to our schools and universities. Also included will be support for research on Canada's interests in Asia and further funding to the Asia Pacific Foundation as it expands its efforts at increasing Asian awareness in Canada. Both the provinces and the private sector will, we hope, contribute to the Foundation's activities.

Another vital aspect of establishing the Canadian presence is our involvement in building Pacific institutions. A number of proposals have been made for economic cooperation in the region by former Secretary of State Shultz, former Prime Minister Nakasone and USA Senator Bradley.

Most recently, Australian Prime Minister Hawke proposed a ministerial meeting to discuss regional issues and cooperation. Next week the Permanent Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be visiting Ottawa to talk about the details of this proposal.

We intend to tell him that Canada welcomes this enterprising initiative, and intends to play a full part in it.

Canada has also been deeply involved in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference, a tripartite grouping of academics, business leaders and government which has examined the prospects for greater regional cooperation. I am pleased to note that at its recent meeting in San Francisco, the PECC standing committee took some significant steps to strengthen its capacity to play an important role in Pacific regional affairs.

It seems inevitable to me that some form of Pacific institution will emerge. As a Pacific player, whose trans-Pacific economic, political, security and cultural links are expanding at a dramatic rate, we have a fundamental stake in this process.