

In approaching the idea of regional cooperation, I believe we should remember the unique qualities of past regional cooperation - our success in mobilizing private sector and academic involvement.

We should build on this success - and avoid building a big and expensive bureaucracy - by using what we have already. I am thinking, for example, of this organization, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference - the PECC.

While matters of policy will obviously remain within the purview of government, recent moves in PECC to acquire a small, permanent staff and to sharpen the focus of its work programs suggest that PECC might contribute analytical support to the process of regional cooperation. It is something that should be explored.

So that is Canada's Pacific trade strategy for the 1990's and beyond

- a recognition that international economic relations is a key factor in our foreign policy;
- a firm commitment to multilateral trade and the rule of law as the door to opportunity for Canada and for all nations;
- using the bilateral free trade agreement with the United States to strengthen our ability to compete in the Pacific arena;
- a Pacific 2000 Strategy to develop our Pacific personality; and
- full-fledged support for Pacific regional cooperation.

We believe it is a coherent and realistic strategy that reflects Canada's needs and aspirations as an export-oriented middle power bordered by the Pacific and the Atlantic, and situated north of the world's largest consumer market. (And) it is our hope that, through this strategy, we can take our rightful place among the nations of the Pacific, and ensure that all countries of the region can prosper in peace into the 21st century.