

the world's best business environments. It's still a gateway to China and a gateway from China to the world.

Canadians, and indeed the world, need to be reassured that Hong Kong will continue as a stable and prosperous place. For Hong Kong is more than an important trading partner for Canada; ties of history and family complement and reinforce our commercial links.

In closing, the expansion of business ties across the Pacific to Hong Kong and throughout Asia will take persistent efforts, but I am confident these efforts will succeed. I believe we can build on improved market access resulting from the Uruguay round and the progress made bilaterally with a number of individual countries. It will take well-targeted trade, investment and tourism promotion efforts. It also will benefit by our enthusiastic participation in regional institutions, above all APEC.

These efforts in turn can be strengthened by complementary measures that will contribute to a much-needed maturity in our bilateral relationships as well as to our regional role. Activities should advance a diversity of objectives and engage a cross-section of our people and talent. They should portray Canada as a partner of quality and value, who is in the game for the long haul, rather than the quick fix. I say this because success in the Asia-Pacific means a commitment not only over time but across many fields of human endeavour. It covers personal ties between leaders; acceptance of certain responsibilities in areas such as peace, human rights and democratic development; recognition of the value of educational and cultural links; and sharing of experience in specific areas such as research and development, environmental preservation, or other challenges of public policy.

For me, there is a special meaning to the engagement, indeed the mobilization of Canadians of Asian origin in the building of our Asia-Pacific partnerships. Canadians of Asian origin, whether representatives of big companies or entrepreneurs from our dynamic small and medium-sized businesses can contribute to the national effort we need. They will add empathy to our Asia-Pacific ties, the kind of cultural affinity so long of benefit to our North American and European links. Much of our success in realizing our aspirations in business will have to do with the success we have in linking our peoples.

For the past two years, my government and I have been doing our part, and we will continue to do so. I hope you can join us in these efforts.

Thank you.