

effect. The Ontario Government, for example, like Alberta, will this year open an office in Hong Kong.

For its part, the Federal Government will continue to represent all of Canada's interests. As you know, Canadians are now in the process of reviewing and revising their constitution. A few weeks ago, the people of Quebec voted in a referendum to remain within the Canadian confederation, thus averting a very difficult situation within our country. At the same time, it is felt that the time has come to make changes in our constitution which align with present-day realities, and that process is going ahead at this time. But the Federal Government will fulfil its role of meeting the needs of all parts of Canada, and the policies which we pursue in this part of the world will be no exception.

At the present time, for example, the Federal Government is refining its techniques and tactics in the economic and trade spheres. We are proposing revisions to the Bank Act which will permit greater reciprocity with other countries in that field. We are currently reviewing a number of bilateral agreements with Pacific nations, seeking ways to modernize mechanisms or to establish new ones where gaps exist in order to improve mutually beneficial trade and capital flows.

But Canada is not coming to the Pacific region in the 1980s simply as a trader looking for markets. A nation as dependent on trade as Canada can ill afford purely self-serving approaches. Rather, we want to build relationships which will benefit all concerned through trade, industrial cooperation, investment, technological exchanges and other relationships. We believe that the growing economic inter-dependence within the Pacific region calls for such sophisticated and responsible policies. It also calls for a broad strategy in our foreign affairs which will advance contacts between people in all walks of life for educational and academic exchanges and for the dissemination of cultural information. We feel that, in time, these approaches will provide a richer and more rewarding international experience for the people of the region.

These are the main lines of Canada's strategy vis-à-vis the Pacific during the 1980s; let me now touch on some more precise manifestations of our approach in the months immediately ahead.

Perhaps the most important event on our horizon is the conference on Pacific relations which Prime Minister Trudeau announced recently and which will take place in Vancouver in November of this year. This conference will bring together knowledgeable and experienced Canadians from the fields of business, government, labour and the universities who have an interest in the Pacific region. We hope that through frank and thoughtful discussion, the conference will inform and sensitize many Canadians about the potential of the