

Chapter II

CANADA AS A PACIFIC POWER

Expanding Awareness

Canada's awareness of the Pacific world has been determined by facts of geography and economics, the links of history and political realities. In Canada's Pacific outlook, distance and remoteness are no longer synonymous.

For Western Canada, this is even more compellingly true than for other parts of the country. Vancouver, the fastest growing port in Canada, is the closest major North American gateway to Asia. From its international airport, the shortest non-stop flights depart for Tokyo. The business houses and educational institutions of the Pacific coast have not unnaturally had a long-standing orientation towards the Pacific world. Of the 54 principal Canadian commodities selling in Japan, no fewer than 48 are primarily of Western Canadian origin. China as a market for the wheat of Western Canada is another, and indeed uniquely important, case in point.

With a vast and varied potential, the Pacific area offers great challenges and opportunities for the growth of economic and commercial exchanges. The extent to which this potential can be developed will depend not only on deliberate and concerted efforts to understand and cater for the needs of Pacific region markets but on the establishment of a climate which minimizes conflict and instability.

The resources of the Western sea have been a vital asset in their own right, and their exploitation and conservation have necessitated special international efforts. Canada has entered into international agreements to regulate and conserve the high-seas fisheries of the North Pacific. Further measures to protect the inshore fisheries may be required to conserve important fisheries assets of Canada's Pacific coast.

Immigration from the Pacific countries to Canada is growing rapidly, especially since the introduction of the new Immigration Regulations in