

**Bridges to  
Western Europe  
and Japan**

In 1978 we pursued further our efforts to give substance to Canada's economic relations with the European Community and the key countries of Western Europe. The visit of Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, provided a good opportunity to assess the industrial co-operation activities undertaken under the Framework Agreement and to provide guidance and direction to future work. The Government reiterated its support for the economic and political integration of Europe while underlining the importance of having Canada's basic interests taken fully into account by the EC "Nine". We have worked to give economic stimulus to our bilateral relations with the Federal Republic of Germany and France in particular, but also with Italy. The Prime Minister's visits to several European countries, and the visit to Canada of Prime Minister Barre of France, reflected Canada's determination to strengthen its relations with Europe. We are particularly determined to achieve a level of economic exchanges commensurate with the importance of the Canadian and European economies and with the quality of our political dialogue.

Our efforts last year to expand and diversify economic and political relations with Japan resulted in agreements on upgraded nuclear safeguards and fisheries, as well as in a gratifying increase of contacts at the political level. Canada's economic relations with Japan grew further during 1978 and the second meeting of the Joint Economic Committee next week in Tokyo should help to maintain the momentum. The fiftieth anniversary this year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Japan will be an occasion for increased political and cultural contacts and activity.

**Strengthening  
foreign-policy  
management**

Various federal departments, all provincial governments and the private sector have international dealings and concerns that must be drawn together if Canada is to maintain an active and coherent foreign policy. The need for high-quality foreign-policy management is perhaps greater today than at any time in our history. Consequently we have taken steps to strengthen External Affairs' role as the central agency of Government responsible for the management of Canada's foreign relations. Senior interdepartmental committees responsible for the co-ordination of Canadian foreign policy and operations have been created or renewed. We have reaffirmed the authority of heads of post over all programs at their missions abroad and clarified their lines of accountability. The extent, level and location of our representation in several key countries is under active study. Departmental personnel policies now promote the development of the maximum degree of specialization consistent with the need for flexibility in the deployment of foreign-service personnel. We are giving particular attention to ensuring that Canada's bilingual nature is fully reflected in our operations at home and abroad. While national and international demands upon us grow, resources are severely constrained. Nevertheless, I am resolved to ensure that Canadian diplomacy is capable of meeting future international challenges.

This statement is not an exhaustive account of what Canada has been endeavouring to do in the realm of foreign affairs. It will serve, however, to underline the two main dimensions of foreign policy. First, we must continue to seek to advance Canadian interests and respond to Canadian concerns by pursuing a range of significant bilateral relations and keeping them in good repair. Secondly, the welfare of Canadians will depend increasingly on finding solutions through international co-operation to global problems; this means that a congenial global order must rank high in our endeavours. It is with these considerations in mind that we shall continue to conduct Canada's foreign policy.