

YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES,

MR. MINISTER, EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED AND HONOURED GUESTS

At this very hour fifty-nine years ago, Canada raised its flag in front of the first Canadian Legation in Tokyo. In 1929, our relations had come of age. For the fully independent Canada, Japan was an early partner. Behind only the United States and France, Japan was the third non-Commonwealth country with whom we were to establish formal diplomatic relations as a sovereign state.

Today it is a great honour for me to break ground for the new "Place Canada", a symbol of the past and a promise for the future.

Three years from now, "Place Canada" will stand as the western end of the Canadian bridge across the Pacific. It is a bridge that has become extremely important to Canadians.

In trade this Pacific bridge of ours now carries substantially more than its Atlantic counterpart. More with Japan alone than we do with our four largest European partners combined. Four of our top ten trading partners are on this side of the Pacific. Tourism and investment have also seen impressive gains. And the greatest promise for growth is here.

Our partnership with Japan is, however, far more than just the sum of impressive trade, tourism and capital flows. That partnership is very much the centerpiece of Canada's Pacific policy, our Asian reawakening.

Today, Canadians of Japanese-origin are a vibrant and important part of our national cultural mosaic. They have reached the heights of achievement in many walks of life. In business, in the arts, in universities and in science and technology. And today we highlight architecture. We are deeply proud that the visionary structure of our new "Place Canada" has been designed by Raymond Moriyama, who is rightly with us here today.