

successive United Nations resolutions. The remarkable success of the ASEAN countries themselves symbolizes the scope for advancement which freedom allows.

Canada has a major stake in the security and stability of Asia and the Pacific and we have sought to build stronger political relationships with all the nations of the region. We have done this by encouraging exchanges of ideas and people, by working towards common objectives at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions and, importantly, by establishing a dialogue with political leaders in the region.

In January 1983, Prime Minister Trudeau visited the ASEAN nations and Japan. His trip was followed by a major commercial mission later that year led by my colleague the Minister of Trade, Mr. Regan. I attended a conference of ASEAN ministers in Bangkok last year and had a series of meetings with my ASEAN counterparts. This experience brought home to me the opportunities and challenges facing those nations.

Nor has the flow of visits been one way. Recent visitors to Canada have included President Chun of Korea, Premier Zhao of the People's Republic of China, Prime Minister Prem of Thailand and Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia.

I met with Foreign Minister Abe of Japan last week at the OECD and we discussed the importance of this PBEC meeting. I will see him again at the Economic Summit in June. I also plan to stop off in Tokyo on my way to the next ASEAN ministerial meeting in Djakarta. Relations with the nations of the Pacific are clearly a high priority on Canada's international agenda.

Canadians understand that we are at the dawn of a new era in the Pacific. The region has the potential in the 21st century to drive global economic development.

Understanding the wide array of cultures, and the varied economic and political systems that are represented in the Pacific region demands special effort if we are to take full advantage of the tremendous opportunities that exist. That is why the Canadian government announced in last year's Speech from the Throne that it will facilitate the establishment of an Asia Pacific Foundation.