

They have made clear to Communist nations that no irreconcilable interests or unnegotiable conflicts need prevent the firm establishment of peaceful conditions and mutually profitable contacts.

Japan is a major economic power and the only industrially-developed country in Asia. It has a leading role in working with friendly nations to achieve a world community in which peace and economic welfare are firmly established in a way they have never been before.

I fully expect our own relations with Japan to assume increasing importance within this international context.

There are several specific reasons on which I base my expectations:

- 1) Our direct contacts with Japan, official and unofficial, are increasing rapidly in volume and variety.
- 2) There are opportunities for further substantial increases in trade between the two countries.
- 3) Both Canada and Japan are major trading nations and have many common interests and preoccupations with respect to trade and economic arrangements in the world as a whole.
- 4) Canada and Japan assign a high priority to economic assistance to developing nations and they are associated in agencies which co-ordinate and concert international efforts in this field.
- 5) We have an identity of interests and attitudes with respect to several of the problems creating the greatest political tension in the world today.

#### Official Relations and General Contacts with Japan

The recent meeting of the Canada-Japan Ministerial Committee in Ottawa proved that these arrangements for contacts and discussions, first agreed upon in 1961, are serving a valuable purpose. They deepen our understanding of one another's viewpoints and strengthen relations in a number of fields.

I am glad that, in addition to attending the meetings in Ottawa, our Japanese visitors were able to develop wider impressions of Canada from visits in Eastern Canada and the West Coast. For our part, we appreciated the opportunity, in discussions of international affairs, to arrive at a better appreciation of Asian developments derived from listening to Asian viewpoints.

These meetings reflect the wide range of official contact and common interests between Canada and Japan. In Canada, the Japanese Government is represented by its Embassy and by Consulates-General or Consulates in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. I understand that Japan intends to open a Consulate in Edmonton on January 1, further illustrating the importance Japan assigns to its relations with this province. In Japan, Canada is represented by one of the oldest, largest and most active of our missions overseas.