

long record of trade, investment and other business activities, and more generally through strong Canadian participation in the Pacific Basin Economic Council since 1967.

In developing new directions we must, first and foremost, come to terms with the sheer size and complexity of the Pacific world; this very diversity makes it impossible to delineate, let alone implement, one set of policies applicable to all countries.

At one end of the spectrum are states which are just entering the modern world; at the other end is Japan, the world's second largest free-market economy. The globe's four great religions are spread across the face of the region, along with a profusion of languages, cultures and races. The distances are vast, and communication and transportation links are often as far-flung as they are expensive.

In a region that boasts over one-third of humanity, the earth's most populous nation, China, is part of the same neighbourhood as the South Pacific state of Nauru, one of the world's smallest. The contrasts seem endless: the resource rich and the resource poor; varying climates and geography; developed and developing states; new states and ancient civilizations; various political philosophies and a variety of economic systems.

. . . No single aspect of our activity in the Pacific—be it in the political, economic, security or cultural sphere—can operate in isolation from the others and still be effective. They must interrelate. They must be mutually supportive. They must be managed within the framework of a foreign policy that is contemporary and imaginative. This is true everywhere, but it has special relevance to the complex Pacific world.

As an element of foreign policy, the political relationship is always difficult to define. There are few criteria and certainly no quantitative yardsticks, such as trade figures, against which progress, success or failure can be measured. In the broadest possible sense, it encompasses the totality of a relationship. In figurative terms, it is both the bed-rock on which the entire relationship rests and the atmosphere which surrounds and sustains it. If the foundation is weak or the overall atmosphere unhealthy, economic relationships—indeed, any kind of relationship—cannot hope to thrive and grow.

Perhaps the most important political consideration that we must face over the coming period in the Pacific is the need to respond with understanding and commitment to the fundamental aspirations of the countries of the region—and to be seen doing so.

This means that Canada must provide firm, substantive and public support for the integrity, stability and economic and social well-being of the region. . . . Such a commitment will be especially important if we are to convince the countries of the region that Canadian foreign policy has a strong Pacific dimension.

The broad commitment expected of us takes different forms in different countries. The Republic of Korea, for example, looks for a clear manifestation of support internationally for its sovereignty and territorial integrity *vis-a-vis* the North. This is a vital prerequisite to any strong economic relationship. And stability in Korea is fundamental to the future of the region.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) seeks less explicit political commitments. Amid the general uncertainties of the region caused by events in Indochina, they look for broad political support which will enhance their interests both individually and increasingly as a group. While economic development remains an essential goal to all countries in the Pacific, there is an assumption that this will flow from political stability in the region. Canada will, of course, continue to do what it can to promote moves towards lasting peace and an end to military tension.

While the situation in Japan, China, Australia and New Zealand is not the same, I believe these countries all welcome, in their own way, Canada's commitment to the well-being of the Pacific region. This positive view is reflected in the totality of their bilateral relationships with us—and in these relationships we will continue to look for reciprocal manifestations of interest on their part.

I am sure you are all aware of the adage that no one does business with a stranger. It also seems rather obvious that we will not advance the broad range of our economic objectives unless decision-makers in the region are aware of Canada as a sophisticated, multi-cultural, industrial country.

. . . There is no question that Canada must move with assurance and vigour into the business of increasing understanding of Canada in Asia and the Pacific countries, and in developing a greater awareness of those countries among Canadians.

British Columbia Premier to Visit ASEAN

PREMIER William Bennett of British Columbia, Canada, will lead an economic mission to three ASEAN countries—the Philippines, Indonesia, and Singapore in the latter part of February.

The purpose of Premier Bennett's trip is to explore with government and business leaders in the region ways and means of increasing economic co-operation particularly in natural resources development. Premier Bennett will be accompanied by the Minister for Industry and Small Business Development and the Minister for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

The strength of British Columbia's economy is firmly rooted in the development of natural resources. Forestry, mining, coal, oil and gas, hydro-electric power generation, fishing and agriculture all play a significant role in the development of the province. With its natural resources base, the British Columbia economy has a strong similarity to the economies of the countries within ASEAN.

Premier Bennett believes that it is important for Canadians, particularly those living on Canada's Pacific coast, to better understand the economic goals and aspirations of ASEAN.

B.C. Participates in Wood '81

AS A reflection of British Columbia's expanding interest in ASEAN, the Ministry of Industry and Small Business Development of the province has organized the participation of six well-known British Columbia companies in the Wood '81 Exhibition, to be held in Singapore from January 12–16.

The companies represented cover a complete range of sawmill and wood-fibre processing capabilities. Also included in the group will be a manufacturer of heavy-duty logging trucks and a manufacturer of yarder cranes which use a cable system to extract logs from the forest. One of the companies has developed a unique process for converting various types of wood and fibre wastes into laminate board products. The company has also extended this technology to using rice husks and sugar-cane rinds for the production of board.