

cultural contacts on which all the elements of any relationship depend....

Economic interests intensify

Canada's economic interests in the Pacific will both intensify and diversify. The expansion of economic activity in western Canada has made this course inevitable, and a number of provincial governments have already stepped up their activities in the region.—This year, for example, the government of Alberta will open offices in Hong Kong to promote further commercial and other economic links. It is precisely this complementarity between western Canada and the Pacific region that has become the vital element in our presence here.

But interest in the Pacific is not confined to western Canada. Our central provinces of Ontario and Quebec are also playing more active roles, and doing so with great effect. The Ontario government, for example, like Alberta, will this year open an office in Hong Kong....

At the present time, for example, the Federal Government is refining its techniques and tactics in the economic and trade spheres. We are proposing revisions to the Bank Act which will permit greater reciprocity with other countries in that field. We are currently reviewing a number of bilateral agreements with Pacific nations, seeking ways to modernize mechanisms or to establish new ones where gaps exist in order to improve mutually beneficial trade and capital flows.

Minister meets with ASEAN counterparts

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan met with the foreign ministers of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Kuala Lumpur June 28. He met with the ministers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines following his attendance at the Venice Summit and the Spring Ministerial Session of NATO held in Ankara, Turkey.

During the talks, Mr. MacGuigan said that Canada expects to provide more than \$200 million in development assistance to ASEAN member countries in the next few years. Two-way trade grew by more than 40 per cent last year. He also told the ministers that Canada views events in Indochina with growing concern and supports their condemnation of Vietnam's recent attack across the Thai-Cambodian border.

In addition, Mr. MacGuigan and Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Sivetsila (on behalf of the ASEAN countries) signed an exchange of notes under which Canada will provide aid for establishment of a forestry project in Thailand. The funds from the Canadian International Development Agency will go towards the cost of experts, training, seminars and related equipment. The Minister said negotiations have not yet been completed on the establishment of a post-harvest fisheries technology project incorporating similar elements. The assistance to the ASEAN countries in the fisheries sector would focus on helping member-countries to reduce post-harvest losses, improve traditional and modern fish processing technology and increase the income of small-scale fishermen, said Mr. MacGuigan.

But Canada is not coming to the Pacific region in the 1980s simply as a trader looking for markets. A nation as dependent on trade as Canada can ill afford purely self-serving approaches. Rather, we want to build relationships which will benefit all concerned through trade, industrial co-operation, investment, technological exchanges and other relationships. We believe that the growing economic interdependence within the Pacific region calls for such sophisticated and responsible policies. It also calls for a broad strategy in our foreign affairs which will advance contacts between people in all walks of life for educational and academic exchanges and for the dissemination of cultural information. We feel that, in time, these approaches will provide a richer and more rewarding international experience for the people of the region....

Pacific relations conference

Perhaps the most important event on our horizon is the conference on Pacific relations which Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced recently and which will take place in Vancouver in November of this year. This conference will bring together knowledgeable and experienced Canadians from the fields of business, government, labour and the universities who have an interest in the Pacific region. We hope that through frank and thoughtful discussion, the conference will inform and sensitize many Canadians about the potential of the region. We hope, too,

that this conference will provide input for the approaches that governments and individuals adopt during the 1980s in this region of the world. To make it as productive as possible for Canadians, we have confined attendance at the conference to Canadians. But I can assure you that those who participate will be prepared to discuss the results with their friends in this part of the world.

While the conference should give Canadians some sense of how they would like the Pacific Community concept to evolve during the 1980s, it is only one part of an evolutionary process. Canadian businessmen, academic and government officials have already joined with their colleagues from other Pacific nations in a growing cross-fertilization of views on this challenging notion. For example, Canadians will participate in the symposium on this subject organized by Sir John Crawford at the Australian National University in September.

...I have just participated in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) foreign minister's meeting in Kuala Lumpur. At previous meetings, other ASEAN dialogue partners have been present, but this was the first time a Canadian foreign minister has been involved in these important discussions. This attention to ASEAN exemplifies what we will be attempting to do with other Pacific countries in the period ahead in enriching the political medium for our future relationships.

My attendance at the Kuala Lumpur meeting (June 28) was complemented... previously by a visit to the ASEAN countries of Malaysia and Indonesia, led by my colleague, Ed Lumley, the Minister of State for International Trade. His visit represents in fact, a new Pacific thrust in Canada's efforts to expand [its] trade and capital flows and to develop economic interdependence. Mr. Lumley was also in New Zealand and Australia in May leading a major trade and investment mission and he is planning additional missions in Asia.

Private sector encouraged

In the last resort, however, government can only facilitate and assist in this outward thrust. It is the role of the private sector to inject life and substance into economic relationships, and for this reason the Canadian Government is encouraging a more explicit role for busi-

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