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MR. TRUDEAU RETURNS FROM THE PACIFIC AND THE FAR EAST

Prime Minister P.E. Trudeau, who recently visited New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan, reported to the House of Commons on June 1 as follows:

In the dozen countries which might be said to form the Asian and Australian rim of the Pacific basin, there live more than a billion persons — a billion persons with increasing expectations of a better life, a billion persons desiring to participate more fully in the economic advantages available to so many people elsewhere in the world. As a country on the eastern shore of the Pacific, Canada must be aware of the aspirations and interests of these people.

I am happy to report to the House, that, in the five countries of this group which I visited on my recent trip, the name of Canada is well respected. There is evident in those places a sincere friendship for Canada and Canadians of which we can all be proud.

I hope, as a result of visits such as this, that those bonds of friendship can be strengthened and that the community of interest shared by the Pacific nations can be increased. Canadian interest in the Pacific is not, of course, of recent origin. It is perhaps not widely enough known that Canada's mission in Tokyo was opened in 1929 at a time when we had missions in only three other countries: the United Kingdom, the United States and France. In 1970, however, when Canadian trade with Japan and Australia is assuming major proportions, at a time when our regional economic assistance programs are proving their value, and at a time when some at least of those countries are requesting Canada to continue its participation in peace observation activities, we must increase our awareness of this important area of the world.

CANADA AT EXPO 70

Canada's presence in Asia is well established this summer by means of the brilliant Canadian participation at Expo 70. The Canadian pavilion and those of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia are outstanding successes and among the most popular there. Their emphasis on the youthful and dynamic character of Canadian society has drawn an enthusiastic response from the Japanese fairgoers. This presence, plus the less obvious but more widespread influence at Expo 67, which is reflected in the organization of the Osaka fair, are matters of deep pride to me and, I am sure, to all Canadians. The Japanese officials are very forthcoming in their praise of the benefits gained from our 1967 experience.

As many of my predecessors in this office have found, a trip to other countries permits a Prime Minister to demonstrate with some emphasis Canada's interests in the area visited and to probe in some depth the attitudes and preoccupations of government leaders in those places.

On this occasion I was able to speak with five different Prime Ministers and ask them of their views

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