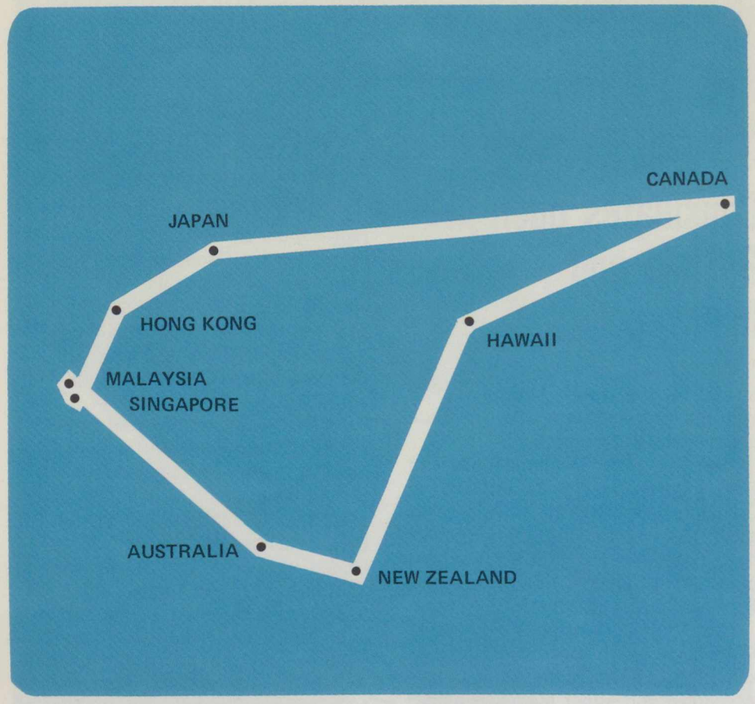
Prime Minister Trudeau tours 'Pacific rim' nations

Canada's growing interest in the 'Pacific rim' of which it is a part is reflected in the 27,500 mile, 20-day tour that Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau completes on May 29.

He will have made official visits to New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and to Japan (see page 12) plus a private visit to Hong Kong and a stopover in Honolulu. Apart from the discussion of trade and other bilateral questions, the Prime Minister said that he hoped to get a "feel" for the politics of the countries he would be visiting, and of "the direction" in which they are going.



Speaking before his departure to a group of Pacific correspondents based in North America, he said he was interested in learning from his hosts how they saw the power relationship developing in the Pacific.

"We are one of the Pacific rim nations and the way in which the equilibrium of forces is established in the Pacific is of very great importance to us—in trade terms, in cultural terms, in terms of the values of civilization which we share with many of these nations and also, of course, in military terms," Mr. Trudeau said.

In New Zealand and Australia the Prime Minister was returning visits paid to Canada last year by the Prime Ministers of these countries. These served to emphasize the importance Canada attaches to closer ties with its Commonwealth partners in the South Pacific.

Canada has important trading relations with Malaysia and Singapore, and Canadian investment in these countries is increasing. They are also substantial recipients of capital and technical assistance under the Canadian international development program.

Japan is now Canada's third trading partner after the United States and Britain. As one of Canada's fastest growing markets, Japan is of first importance to its export trade and is also an important investor in the development of Western Canada.

Canada Past and Present, from which the accompanying cartoon and quotation are drawn, is a brief, colorful introduction to Canada. Designed to provide a better understanding of Canadians and of the nation that shares most of a continent with the United States, it is written by John Saywell, educator, author, and public commentator.

In its 64 pages, *Canada Past and Present* traces the history of the country and describes with feeling and personality what Canada is today. From the discovery of a raw continent by Columbus in 1492, to the meeting of Pierre Elliott Trudeau with Richard Milhous Nixon in 1969, the examination of Canada is thorough and wide-ranging. Prof. Saywell wipes out present-day boundaries to show how close—and yet different—has been the development of the two countries. The book is primarily a teaching document, but will be informative to anyone interested in the development of the continent. Copies may be obtained free from *Canada today/d'aujourd'hui,* Suite 325, 1771 N St. N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

Canada past & present

The image of life in Canada presented to the foreigner is very similar to Michael Ramus' humorous view through the mists of Niagara Falls. It is an image of a people living close to nature and still engaged, with dog sled or bush plane, in the massive task of opening up the Canadian wilderness. Although such an image is accurate for only a small number of Canadians, there is some truth in the picture of a people still struggling to overcome a harsh environment. The task of building the Canadian nation has been a long and difficult one, for the geography of Canada has not presented an easy challenge. Thus national effort has always had to be concentrated on economic growth and economic survival. Yet Canadians have had time to build a rich life of the spirit and to create a culture that has enriched their society and made its contribution to the cultural life of the Western world.