

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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JAPAN AND CANADA, PACIFIC NEIGHBOURS

An address by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker to the Japan-Canada Trade Council, Tokyo, October 28, 1961.

I am honoured to have this opportunity to address a joint gathering of the Canada-Japan Society and the Canada-Japan Trade Council. These organizations personify Japanese friendship for Canada. You, Mr. Chairman, have maintained your sympathetic interest in my country since 1929, when you came to Ottawa as Japan's first Minister. On behalf of all Canadians I express appreciation to you and your associates for all that you are doing to promote the basic objective of closer relations between Canada and Japan - an objective that is fully shared by the Government of Canada.

Japan and Canada as neighbours across the Pacific should enjoy good relations and mutual respect. Canadians know and appreciate the admirable qualities of the Japanese people which have been transplanted to Canadian shores. Today 26,000 Canadians of the Japanese race are contributing to the enrichment of Canadian life.

Not only are we close neighbours and good neighbours, but we have things in common, although different in language and culture. Almost simultaneously Canada set out on its road to independent nationhood, and Japan burst forth from two centuries of isolation to become in a remarkably short time one of the most advanced nations in the world.

We derive a common benefit from trade among nations. We have a common dedication to the ideal and practice of parliamentary democracy. Both have made known their determination to preserve freedom in the face of peril.

Threat of Communism

Good relations, respect and trust between free nations are imperative. Japan and Canada and all free nations are threatened by the Communist leaders who prophesy the ultimate triumph of the Communist system. The burdens and responsibilities have become awesome and grave for free nations determined to preserve their freedom.