

will lie with formulating policies and implementing programmes which will make this personality more manifest. And it is to these possibilities that I wish briefly to direct your attention.

No development in recent years so exemplifies a recognition of the coming Pacific age than the current move to explore the concept of a tangible "Pacific Community". I doubt that anyone has a clear concept of what shape such a Community will eventually take. But Canada intends to participate in the evolution of the concept from the outset. We have not made up our minds about any of the specifics of organization, membership or mandate, and we will approach the idea cautiously, but nonetheless in a positive fashion. Undoubtedly, the process of study and evolution will take time. But this may be well, since a good deal of community-building must precede any formal organization. Such matters as the improvement of transportation and communications links, tourism development and increased cultural and educational interplay are essential before tackling the economic issues which lie at the heart of the Community's potential dynamic. For Canada and her Pacific partners, the achievement of the Pacific Community is a longer-term, general goal. In the interim, we must nourish and expand the bilateral relationships which are the foundations of such a concept. And for this purpose, Canada intends to inject new energy into our political and economic relationships with the countries of the Asian Pacific region.

Until now, our political ties with individual countries in the region have largely reflected historical connections or other realities, such as Commonwealth ties, defence considerations, trading dimensions or development assistance. In the Pacific of the 80s, we would hope to recast our political efforts in a more modern mold-- one which takes account of the diversity and unique characteristics of our Pacific partners. We will also pay closer attention to building the broader and richer style of political understanding and cultural contacts on which all the elements of any relationship depend. I believe that my attendance at the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur a few days ago is an indication of both these trends in our approach.

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