

The Government's focus on the Asia/Pacific region is intended to reinforce and build on this trend. That fits naturally with my own inclination and commitment. The necessary resources and time of my department and myself will be devoted to this priority. I have recently returned from a visit to Japan, our largest trading partner in Asia and our second most important in the world.

China has also been chosen as a priority market within our national trade strategy. Why China? The reason is simple. China is our fifth largest export market in the world. In 1985, Canadian exports to China were \$1.3 billion. Our sales of manufactured end products to China in that one year increased by 500 per cent to \$150 million. In the first 9 months of 1986, although our total sales were down slightly, manufactured goods continue to increase.

More importantly, of all the countries seeking to ensure themselves a place in the Chinese market, Canada is the fifth largest supplier to that huge country. That's impressive but we can do better.

In the past few months, my Cabinet colleagues and I have worked hard to establish a better framework and to provide more tools for commercial success in China. We have expanded our contacts at the highest levels in both governments. Prime Minister Mulroney made a very successful visit to China last May. Chinese leaders told him Canada would be a preferred supplier. The Prime Minister opened important doors for many members of the Canada/China Trade Council.

I visited China as Minister of Energy Mines and Resources to further cooperation in the power and resources sectors. I intend to visit as Minister for International Trade in the spring of 1987 to open more doors and expand our successes in other fields.

This year we have hosted five Ministers from China - three of which made it a point to include British Columbia in their itinerary. These visits are important. A year ago I had the pleasure of hosting the Chinese Minister for water resources and electric power, Madame Qian (Chan) and to take her to Revelstoke. During that visit she chose Canada to complete the feasibility study for the world's largest hydroelectric project - a study in which B.C. Hydro is now involved as part of the Canadian consortium.