

At the end of their week-long visit, they told the Prime Minister that they had "discovered in some ways a new Canada". In their previous visit to Canada they found barriers to investment, poor Federal-Provincial relations, and great labour unrest. This time they found Investment Canada seeking new investment, a new spirit of national reconciliation, and a better labour climate.

The Kanao mission emphasized that Canada's traditional role as a major supplier of natural resources to Japan must continue on a long-term basis.

At the same time, however, they also made it clear that Japan must deal with the new Canada. Japan must increase its imports of our manufactured goods. In high-tech areas, they consider it very important for us to explore opportunities for technology transfers and joint ventures between Japanese and Canadian companies. Canada has world class competitors in a wide variety of different industries.

These conclusions of the Kanao mission are extremely significant, given the considerable impact that this mission is likely to have on how Japan does business with Canada in the coming years.

This is a new foundation upon which we can build a more expansive economic relationship with Japan. While the impressions of the Kanao mission are fresh in our minds, I shall take the opportunity to go to Japan next week to explore further new trade and investment opportunities between our countries.

I will be meeting with many members of the Kanao mission, including senior executives of Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Seiko, Toyota and the Industrial Bank of Japan. I will also be attending two investment seminars, one in Tokyo and one in Osaka, that are being organized by Mr. Kanao as part of Japanese efforts to promote what they described as "a new Canada".

Since coming to power in September, 1984, the Government has devoted an enormous amount of energy to revitalizing Canada's economic environment and reshaping Canada's image abroad. At a time when protectionism and inward thinking is very real in some western industrialized countries, we are determined to fight against these negative pressures. Through several constructive measures, we have opened up the Canadian economy, building bridges, not barriers, to economic opportunity.

Two very real barriers to growth -- the national energy program and the Foreign Investment Review Agency -- have been eliminated. I have referred earlier to Investment Canada, an agency whose mandate is to facilitate and promote investment that will bring Canada new technologies, ideas, capital and jobs, investment that will increase Canada's international competitiveness.