

negotiations will play in strengthening the liberal trading system and in promoting the growth of trade. It was agreed that the prospect of such negotiations should not delay efforts to roll back restrictions already in place. These restrictions are contrary to the longer term interests of the industrialized and the developing countries alike.

The developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region will continue to be a major focus of Canada's development assistance program. Our aid program, in fact, began in Asia and the region currently receives the largest share of our bilateral funding. Canada and the ASEAN countries are working together on cooperative projects in areas such as energy and transportation and in fostering joint ventures and technical exchanges between individual manufacturers. One of the newest major programs of our international development agency, CIDA, is with the People's Republic of China, where the emphasis is on energy, education, agriculture and forestry.

In our February budget, the Canadian Government announced that an Aid-Trade Fund would be established to support an expanded role for Canadian firms abroad. By 1990, as much as \$1.3 billion could be allocated to the fund to provide financing for projects which have a high priority in recipient countries' development plans, for which Canadian firms are competitive, and for which development assistance financing is required. A significant portion of that money will be spent on programs in the Pacific and in Asia.

The region is a major focus of the International Development and Research Centre, a public corporation created by Parliament in 1970. The Centre helps to develop cooperation in research between scientists and institutions in developing countries and their counterparts in Canada.

The level of economic progress in the Asia/Pacific region will ultimately hinge on its political stability. In this regard, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan is a major, negative factor as well as an affront to human dignity and world opinion. The massive Vietnamese military intrusion into Cambodia is a further grave concern. Canada has endorsed the ASEAN demand for Vietnamese withdrawal, repeated in