

These then are some of the steps which Canada has taken to give effect to our desire to play a more active role in the affairs of the Pacific area. Furthermore, we are currently examining the development of more imaginative instruments of economic co-operation with the developing countries of the region. I consider that such instruments should be designed to strengthen ASEAN as a whole, as well as the individual member states.

Canada has followed with interest the initiatives Australia has taken in this regard. For some years, of course, our officials have kept in touch with each other to ensure that our economic assistance projects complemented each other, and served our shared objective: to contribute to growing prosperity in the region, which in my view is an essential element of political stability.

As a western nation, situated in the Pacific, Australia enjoys a unique vantage point from which to view, and to take part in, developments in the region. I have therefore found my talks with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Peacock and his colleagues very timely, and highly informative. I have found it useful to compare notes with my hosts on the various ways in which we can foster the concept of regional co-operation, as well as on the various possibilities that are open to us to expand our bilateral relations with Asian and Pacific countries in general.

Canadians have been impressed by the way in which Australia is moving to establish firm links with their prominent neighbours. The recent visit to China and Japan by Prime Minister Fraser, only a short time after forming his government, clearly demonstrated the importance Australia attaches to its relations with these two key countries. The successful conclusion of the basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Australia and Japan, which Prime Minister Fraser signed in Tokyo, is in my view a significant development, indicative of a new pattern of relations which is emerging throughout the Pacific region.

I have also noted with interest the recent visit of Prime Minister Fraser to the United States as it is important to Canada that the co-operative relationship between two of our closest friends continue undiminished. Moreover, Canada holds the view that enhanced security and growing stability in the Pacific can be ensured only if the United States continues to play a vigorous role and takes an active part in shaping events. The key position of Japan should also be mentioned. By virtue of its great economic strength, it can play a crucial part in fostering the growing prosperity which I described a moment ago as an essential element of peace and stability.