

TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO DISCUSS CANADA'S VIEWS ON THE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE PACIFIC REGION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO KOREA; TO DESCRIBE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CANADIAN TRADE POLICY; AND TO SPECULATE BRIEFLY ON FUTURE TRENDS IN THE PACIFIC AS A BACKDROP TO A CALL FOR EXPANDED COOPERATION BETWEEN KOREA AND CANADA.

THE DYNAMIC GROWTH IN ECONOMIC POWER OF THE EAST ASIAN ECONOMIES HAS FOCUSED THE MINDS OF CANADIANS ON THE PACIFIC REGION AS NEVER BEFORE. CANADIANS ARE USED TO ASIA BEING THE DOMINANT POPULATION CENTRE OF THE EARTH, BUT ONLY RECENTLY HAVE WE BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WILL MEAN WHEN ASIA CONSTITUTES SOMETHING LIKE 40% OF GLOBAL CONSUMPTION. TEN YEARS AGO, ONLY 34 PERCENT OF CANADA'S NON-U.S.A TRADE WAS WITH THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION; NOW THE FIGURE IS 50 PERCENT AND RISING. IN 1988, TWO-WAY TRADE WITH THE REGION WAS \$36 BILLION, WITH EXPORTS MORE THAN \$17 BILLION.

THE SPEED OF CHANGE IN ASIA IS UNPARALLELED AND THE IMPACT ON CANADA IS VERY REAL. NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE RELIED SO MUCH ON ASIAN TRADE.

CANADIANS ALSO REALIZE THAT KOREA IS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT PARTNER WITHIN THAT DYNAMIC REGION. THE TIES BETWEEN CANADA AND KOREA HAVE GROWN AT AN EVER INCREASING RATE. KOREAN STUDENTS AND TOURISTS ARE COMING TO CANADA IN GREATER NUMBERS. GROWING TRADE AND RECIPROCAL INVESTMENT HAS MEANT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INCREASING KOREAN BUSINESSES OPERATIONS IN CANADA AND CANADIAN OFFICES IN KOREA. ALL FACETS OF THE RELATIONSHIP ARE GROWING, BUT CLEARLY OUR TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS ECLIPSE ALL OTHERS.