

perspective can we appreciate how the course of events since 1945 has brought us, along with many elements of turbulence in international affairs, some welcome developments towards sane, peaceful and prosperous conditions in the world.

The fact that the most economically advanced nations of Western Europe and of North America are now linked to Japan by so many common interests and concepts, both political and economic, is one of the most encouraging developments of recent years.

These nations of three continents base their actions in the world on United Nations principles. They have pledged assistance to the developing nations. They have not relied on any exclusive associations between them; they are separately associated with Commonwealth nations, with the nations preserving special links of French language and culture, with Latin America and with Asia.

They have made clear to Communist nations that no irreconcilable interests or unnegotiable conflicts need prevent the firm establishment of peaceful conditions and mutually profitable contacts.

Japan is a major economic power and the only industrially developed country in Asia. It has a leading role in working with friendly nations to achieve a world community in which peace and economic welfare are firmly established in a way they have never been before.

I fully expect our own relations with Japan to assume increasing importance within this international context.

There are several specific reasons on which I base my expectations:

- 1) our direct contacts with Japan, official and unofficial, are increasing rapidly in volume and variety;