

I wish to make particular reference to another area of profound common concern between Canada and Asia -- and Hong Kong in particular -- having deep humanitarian implications. As you know, Canada has agreed to accept 60,000 Indochinese refugees from Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia and other countries by the end of 1980. Of these, some 13,000 will have been moved from Hong Kong and, in fact, this week the 10,000 refugees who have been selected will leave Hong Kong for a new life in our country. I wish to take this opportunity to commend the government and people of Hong Kong for the compassion you have shown and the efforts you have made in providing a temporary haven for so many refugees on your small and heavily populated territory.

Like many other parts of the world, the Pacific region has seen its share of human suffering. Yet, most observers agree that in the future the Pacific area will be unique as an area of outstanding economic growth and development. The potential is vast, and has never been more tangible than it is now. Fed by Japan's remarkable post-war growth and the trade-oriented industrialization policies of South and Northeast Asia economies, such as that of Hong Kong, the Western Pacific has enjoyed growth rates from 6 to 10% per year over the last decade. In many countries exports have grown at 2 or 3 times these rates, and their shares of world markets have increased markedly. The developing countries of Asia have become increasingly important destinations for goods, services and investment capital. This remarkable pattern of growth should continue to make the Pacific economy the growth economy in the world. By the end of this century, this region may well become the focus, if not the engine of growth in the world economy.

A major international challenge for Canada in the decade ahead will be to fashion a response to this exciting phenomenon of a new Pacific age. We want to be part of it; we want to contribute to its development and to share in its benefits. Our ultimate objective would be the creation of a more stable and prosperous community of nations in the Pacific region.

But it is a challenge that will demand a good deal of creative energy on Canada's part. As a first step, we will need a broad base of public support for our initiatives and to do this we shall have to shape a greater awareness of the potential of the Pacific region within Canada. In many parts of Canada, our traditional orientation has been towards a primary role as an Atlantic nation. But we are now beginning to see an awareness in Canada of a dual personality as both an Atlantic and a Pacific nation, and an educational process in this direction is now taking place. Perhaps one day soon a larger number of Canadians will see Hong Kong as part of the "Near West".

But if one-half of Canada's challenge lies in developing an awareness of its Pacific personality, the other half