

As a government, we raise our concerns in this area with our trading partners. We shall continue to do so.

I must point out, however, that trade and human rights are mutually reinforcing. In fact, trade itself is a force for human rights. Trade benefits Canada through job creation – a government priority – but it also supports economic, social and, inevitably, political reform in countries such as China. We believe that a China open to the world can only be good for its people, both economically and politically, and will further the cause of respect for human rights.

Governments that open their doors to international trade are more sensitive to the views and reactions of others. Greater economic freedom encourages the growth of political freedom. People-to-people contact in day-to-day trade can be an instrument of change. The Government of Canada therefore encourages Canadian businesses to expand their participation in world markets. In our view, communication is more of a catalyst than isolation is.

Earlier this year the Government released its statement on foreign policy, entitled *Canada in the World*. In that statement, we outlined our guiding objectives: first, the promotion of prosperity and employment; second, the protection of security; and third, the promotion of our values and culture. We encounter issues in all three areas in Asia-Pacific, and often they are tightly connected to each other. Some tend to see one element being pursued at the expense of the others, but as I have just outlined, I see them being pursued in harmony. Without the basic elements of good governance, rule of law and human rights, there would be no long-term stability in a country or, indeed, in a region.

The statement also drew attention to the high-growth markets of Asia-Pacific and called for an expansion of our effort there. The emphasis on Asia-Pacific is not just fashionable "Pacific century" rhetoric. It is a considered response to real opportunity and a reflection of our confidence in Canada's capacity to compete.

Asia-Pacific represents a source of remarkable strength for Canada's prosperity, a strength that extends well beyond the some \$20 billion in exports we registered last year – a gain of almost 19 per cent over 1993 and close to half of our total non-U.S. trade.

Asia-Pacific means a lot to the Canadian economy:

- Asia-Pacific is a pillar of our agricultural and resource sector, a region with growth three times the average of the OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development], whose markets will assure the viability of these sectors for years to come;