

me now touch on some more precise manifestations of our approach in the months immediately ahead.

Meetings

Perhaps the most important event on our horizon is the conference on Pacific relations which Prime Minister Trudeau announced recently and which will take place in Vancouver in November of this year. This conference will bring together knowledgeable and experienced Canadians from the fields of business, government, labour and the universities who have an interest in the Pacific region. We hope that through frank and thoughtful discussion, the conference will inform and sensitize many Canadians about the potential of the region. We hope, too, that this conference will provide input for the approaches that governments and individuals adopt during the 1980s in this region of the world. To make it as productive as possible for Canadians, we have confined attendance at the conference to Canadians. But I can assure you that those who participate will be prepared to discuss the results with their friends in this part of the world.

While the conference should give Canadians some sense of how they would like the Pacific-community concept to evolve during the 1980s, it is only one part of an evolutionary process. Canadian businessmen, academics and government officials have already joined with their colleagues from other Pacific nations in a growing cross-fertilization of views on this challenging notion. For example, Canadians will participate in the symposium on this subject organized by Sir John Crawford at the Australian National University in September.

As I mentioned earlier, I have just participated in the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur. At previous meetings, other ASEAN dialogue partners have been present, but this was the first time a Canadian foreign minister has been involved in these important discussions. This attention to ASEAN exemplifies what we will be attempting to do with other Pacific countries in the period ahead in enriching the political medium for our future relationships.

My attendance at the Kuala Lumpur meeting was complemented a few weeks previously by a visit to the ASEAN countries of Malaysia and Indonesia, led by my colleague, the Honourable Ed Lumley, the Minister of State for International Trade. His visit represents in fact, a new Pacific thrust in Canada's efforts to expand our trade and capital flows and to develop economic interdependence. Mr. Lumley was also in New Zealand and Australia in May leading a major trade and investment mission and he is planning additional missions in Asia.

In the last resort, however, government can only facilitate and assist in this outward thrust. It is the role of the private sector to inject life and substance into economic relationships, and for this reason the Canadian government is encouraging a more explicit role for businessmen and business associations in shaping relationships and influencing the form and conduct of foreign policy. I have already referred to the role played in this by the Canadian Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council. Another example is the readiness of busy Canadian executives to participate in bilateral business committees with colleagues from other countries. Our government will continue to assist them in this valuable work in order to develop a more unified