

NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS TO THE KEIDANREN

Gentlemen:

I would like to thank you for inviting me here today to exchange views on Canada's relations with Japan. My visit to Tokyo early in my term as Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs is an indication of the importance we place on relations with Japan. In meeting with you I want to deliver my pledge of government support for business initiatives that will make this important relationship even more beneficial.

Mr. Chairman, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Japan/Canada Economic Committee of the Keidanren. Over the last eight years the joint Canada-Japan Businessmen's Conference has developed into a most significant feature of the bilateral relations. Your meetings have given leading Canadian and Japanese industrialists the opportunity to develop closer and more effective personal and corporate links. Before coming to Japan I met with Mr. David Culver, the Chairman of the Canada-Japan Business Cooperation Committee. I am aware of how much the Canadian Committee is looking forward to the meeting in Calgary in May next year. I want to wish you well as you prepare for those discussions.

The new government in Canada is giving priority attention to revitalizing our national economy. We will put into place policies to stimulate investment, foster innovation and increase competitiveness. We will also develop policies to encourage open and improved trading relationships. In developing these policies we will look to the private sector as the major source of growth and new jobs for Canadians.

Canada, like Japan, must trade to survive. More than 3 million Canadians work in industries directly or indirectly related to exports. Japan, is Canada's second largest trading partner. In the past decade two-way trade between our nations has nearly quadrupled. Japan is one of Canada's most dynamic export markets and an important source of quality manufactured goods.

Your imports of our resources have made an enormous contribution to the development of the Canadian economy. We, for our part, have committed considerable effort and expense to the development and efficient delivery of resources to the Japanese market. We are a sure and secure source of resources, but we require secure markets now and in the future at a fair and viable price.

Structural change in the Japanese economy presents each of us with new opportunities. Canadians will search for new Japanese markets particularly for upgraded resources. At