

conclusion: an enriched co-operative relationship with Japan that envisaged closer ties in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields would support directly Canada's objective of building a sound domestic economy and reducing Canada's economic vulnerability.

It is clear, of course, that the Canadian objective of consciously enhancing the relationship between Canada and Japan could not be fulfilled unless it received a positive response from the Japanese. In this regard, I think it can be clearly stated that the Japanese Government fully shares this objective and has expressed its own commitment to strengthen and expand the ties between us.

Against this background, I want to review briefly the progress that has been made to date towards achieving Canadian objectives with Japan and to offer suggestions as to how we together can take part in enhancing the relationship in a mutually-beneficial and co-operative manner.

One major requirement has been to increase government-to-government consultation in order to encourage the Japanese Government and people to obtain a better understanding of Canada and Canadians. We have also tried to create a more systematic framework in which these discussions can take place. One example of this has been a noticeable increase in the frequency of meetings between our political leaders through bilateral visits, such as the Prime Minister's visit to Japan last October and the presence of Foreign Minister Hatoyama in Vancouver today. Indeed, since assuming my present portfolio last September, this is the third occasion on which I have held discussions with my Japanese counterpart — having already met with Mr. Hatoyama during the economic "summit" in London last month and with his predecessor at the UN General Assembly last fall. I have found increased consultation of this kind to be particularly valuable because of the perspective our two countries bring to discussions of this kind.

Such meetings also provide an excellent opportunity to exchange views on important issues such as nuclear questions, which Mr. Hatoyama and I will be discussing this afternoon. On this important question I should like to stress that there is no dispute over our basic attitude and that of the Japanese towards non-proliferation. We are both committed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The difference in views in our negotiations results from the fact that we each have to discuss the matter within the "parameters" of our existing domestic policies. This meeting will give us the opportunity to clarify our respective positions and to identify, if possible, means to reconcile the Canadian nuclear-export requirements and the energy needs of Japan.

It has also become clear that, in order to forge a more meaningful bilateral relationship, it will be essential for both Canada and Japan to change the traditional, and in many ways inaccurate, images each has of the other. Indeed a change in perception in our media and in our schools of higher learning is vital to the success of our political and economic objectives. In one attempt to improve this situation, my department has embarked upon a major academic-relations program designed to encourage the development of Canadian studies in Japan and Japanese studies here in Canada. We are also actively facilitating increased exchanges of sports groups, academic, theatre

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