

TO REFLECT REAL REGIONAL PRIORITIES. AND SO, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE INTEREST IN THE PACIFIC RIM, WHICH IS SECOND NATURE IN WESTERN CANADA, HAS BECOME DELIBERATELY A NATIONAL PRIORITY FOR ALL OF CANADA.

MANY OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM PLAY CENTRAL ROLES IN BUILDING CANADA'S PACIFIC PRIORITY. MANY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CANADA-JAPAN SOCIETY, THE VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE, THE ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION, THE JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE MOKUYOKAI CLUB HAVE OPENED THE WAY. PREMIER BENNETT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND HIS MINISTERS, HAVE TRAVELLED FREQUENTLY TO JAPAN, AND THROUGHOUT ASIA, OPENING CHANNELS, AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES. THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, PAT CARNEY, ORGANIZED WESTERN CANADA'S FIRST PACIFIC RIM OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER. THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF VANCOUVER HAVE TWINNED THE CITY WITH YOKOHAMA.

A YEAR AGO, THE PRIME MINISTER AND I AGREED THAT, FOR MY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT ABROAD AS FOREIGN MINISTER OF CANADA'S NEW AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, I WOULD GO TO JAPAN. I REMEMBER AND APPRECIATE, THE WELCOME YOU EXTENDED ME THEN, AND THE EXTRAORDINARY WAY IN WHICH YOU, AND PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY HAVE WORKED TOGETHER, AT THE BONN SUMMIT, ON TRADE, IN RESPONSE TO THE FAMINE IN AFRICA, AND ON PROSPECTS FOR THE GENEVA MEETING BETWEEN MR. REAGAN AND MR. GORBACHEV.