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CANADA AND THE PACIFIC

While in Tokyo recently, for the Canada-Japan ministerial meeting, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, addressed the Foreign Correspondents' Club. Excerpts from the speech follow:

There is... a long history of Canadian interest in the Pacific countries, particularly Japan. But it was not until after the Second World War that Canadians as a whole became aware of the Pacific as they had been of the Atlantic - as a natural focus for our trading interests and for the definition of our international personality. This growing consciousness of the Pacific is attributable in economic terms to the amazing progress of Japan, to the continuing development of other countries on the Pacific rim and to the remarkable growth in the extractive and manufacturing industries of Western Canada. Over the past 30 years, developments in Asia have also brought home to Canadians as never before the realization that Canada is involved despite our apparent geographical remoteness. The upheaval in China following the Second World War, the Korean War, and more recently the Vietnam War, have prompted Canadians to be concerned with the way in which the world's peace and security is affected by events in East and Southeast Asia. All this has led to a fresh recognition of the obvious fact that Canada is a Pacific as well as an Atlantic nation, and to a reassertion of this fact as a firm principle of our foreign policy....

JAPAN
Foremost among the countries with which closer Canadian ties are being forged is Japan. In economic

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terms this country has come to be of tremendous importance to Canada. Japan is presently our third largest trading partner, competing for second place, and bilateral trade between Japan and Canada last year amounted to almost \$1 billion. We have traditionally been large-scale suppliers of the basic primary commodities required by the Japanese economy. But we are also anxious to secure a greater opportunity for our producers to compete with more highly processed products in the Japanese market, and we look to the disappearance of impediments, many of which are out of date in the Japanese economy of today, to our export trade in these goods and in agricultural products.

In the other direction, Canadian imports from Japan have, since the conclusion of the first Canada-Japan Trade Agreement in 1954, increased more than sixteenfold. The vast majority of these imports are fully manufactured goods, and there are times when sales of a few Japanese products occur at levels which cause disruption in the Canadian economy. We feel obliged to state our position frankly in such cases and we expect an understanding reaction from our Japanese friends. The healthy state of our relations and our shared interests are such that they can readily withstand these differences. There has also been a substantial increase in the amount of Japanese investment in Canada in recent years. We