

Statement

Discours

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Ministère des  
Affaires  
extérieures

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REMARKS BY THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

GROUNDBREAKING FOR "PLACE CANADA"

CANADA DAY, 1988

TOKYO, JAPAN

July 1, 1988.

Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada

YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES,

MR. MINISTER, EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED AND HONOURED GUESTS

At this very hour fifty-nine years ago, Canada raised its flag in front of the first Canadian Legation in Tokyo. In 1929, our relations had come of age. For the fully independent Canada, Japan was an early partner. Behind only the United States and France, Japan was the third non-Commonwealth country with whom we were to establish formal diplomatic relations as a sovereign state.

Today it is a great honour for me to break ground for the new "Place Canada", a symbol of the past and a promise for the future.

Three years from now, "Place Canada" will stand as the western end of the Canadian bridge across the Pacific. It is a bridge that has become extremely important to Canadians.

In trade this Pacific bridge of ours now carries substantially more than its Atlantic counterpart. More with Japan alone than we do with our four largest European partners combined. Four of our top ten trading partners are on this side of the Pacific. Tourism and investment have also seen impressive gains. And the greatest promise for growth is here.

Our partnership with Japan is, however, far more than just the sum of impressive trade, tourism and capital flows. That partnership is very much the centerpiece of Canada's Pacific policy, our Asian reawakening.

Today, Canadians of Japanese-origin are a vibrant and important part of our national cultural mosaic. They have reached the heights of achievement in many walks of life. In business, in the arts, in universities and in science and technology. And today we highlight architecture. We are deeply proud that the visionary structure of our new "Place Canada" has been designed by Raymond Moriyama, who is rightly with us here today.

On a political level, we consult frequently with Japan on all major global and regional issues. Most recently at the Economic Summit in Toronto last week and here this week with Foreign Minister Uno. We share views on major East/West issues, on our respective relations and concerns with the Soviet Union and especially on Asian and Pacific questions.

What happens on this side of the Pacific is and has been important to Canada. Our part in the Korean conflict, our participation in nineteen years of peace and supervisory commissions in Indochina, and our current participation in the international observer force in Afghanistan, our status as a dialogue partner to ASEAN; all these bear witness to our Asian commitment.

A new and dynamic presence here in Tokyo is only one of the many steps that my government has taken to recognize the importance of Canada's Pacific connections. Two major initiatives of the last three years have borne witness to the priority of Japan in our national agenda.

The National Trade Strategy adopted in 1985 established the United States and Asia/Pacific as the highest priority regions for Canada's export efforts. New posts were opened in Osaka, Auckland, Bombay and Shanghai. An office of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan.

And then in 1986 we adopted our Strategy for Japan, the second bilateral strategy adopted by my government following that which led us to negotiate the historic free trade agreement with the United States.

We have embarked on programs to demonstrate that we are a dynamic country open for business. And Japan has responded.

- Japanese cars are rolling off assembly lines in Canada.
- Investments in coal, copper and canola have been announced, and collaboration in the forestry sector has been expanded.
- Joint ventures have been established to produce computer disks and colour television tubes for Canadian and third-country markets.

Partnerships such as these have demonstrated a strong Japanese faith in Canada's future economic health and wealth. To those of you from the business community who have joined us today, I applaud your judgement, your determination and your recognition that Canada has become a great economic success story.

Two years ago, Mr. Kanao of the Keidenran brought to Canada a high level group of Japanese business people who saw our dynamism and our promise first hand. Their report attested to the existence of "a new Canada, a high-technology Canada".

Let me turn for a moment to the longer-term future. Of a future when our new "Place Canada" has become a well-known landmark in downtown Tokyo, a meeting place for Canadians and their Japanese partners, a symbol of our shared commitment to a shared well-being.

As we look forward, it takes no great leap of faith to see a greatly enhanced trading relationship, in the context of a liberalized world trading system that we are today working hard together to create. Canadian manufactured goods will join Canadian food products and resources in their proper place in the Japanese market. Paralleled by continued growth in the sale of Japanese goods and services in Canada.

I foresee greatly enhanced links of transportation and communication. Non-stop air services between our major cities, and direct and constant telecommunication links between a vast myriad of contacts that will exist between Japanese and Canadians in all walks of life.

I foresee vastly expanded bilateral cooperation in science and technology, between our principal research institutions, in major multilateral undertakings, between private corporations. Pushing back the frontiers of science, of medicine, of applied technologies, and in the exploration and exploitation of space.

I also foresee new partnerships not limited to the bilateral context. In Toronto last week, Prime Minister Takeshita described to us Japan's new initiatives in the area of development assistance. Japan has rapidly become an important pillar in the collective development efforts of the industrialized world. I foresee strong partnerships in this field, given Canada's long commitment to development and our shared interests in stability and growth.

As the newly industrialized economies of Asia complete their rites of passage over the development threshold, I see Canada, whose relations with those economies are already important, working closely with Japan in consulting with them as they shoulder the responsibilities of modern, industrialized and democratic societies. And working with Japan in addressing the needs and aspirations of the growing Pacific community.

At the eastern end of our Pacific bridge, I foresee a strong, diverse, and growing Canada, buttressed by our Free Trade Agreement with the United States, offering an evermore attractive site for Japanese direct investment. I also foresee a reinforcement of our already well-deserved reputation for a high quality of life, as our collective initiatives to promote cultural understanding bear fruit. A Canada that will add one million more Asians to its rich cultural fabric between now and the year 2000. For Japanese it will be both a wonderful place to visit, and a challenging and rewarding place to work and live. As it will be for all Canadians.

At the same time I foresee a future where young Canadians will grow up learning naturally about Japan and our other Pacific partners. And Japanese about Canada. Where Canadian education systems will encourage immersion in Japanese as a logical third language. Where our business, academic and legal communities will study, absorb and internally integrate into their Canadian nature a greater knowledge of Asian cultures and languages.

Will we be able to meet the challenges of this future I foresee? To find the fortitude and the wherewithal necessary to make it a reality. I believe we will.

It will take imagination, energy, and commitment. I can assure you that the Government of Canada will do its part. I am sure that every one of you here today, you who have an intense interest in the Canada-Japan partnership and in the success of Canada's Pacific policy, will take up your part of our collective challenge.

Your Imperial Highnesses, distinguished guests, "Place Canada" is a great symbol of tomorrow. It is a statement of partnership - between Canada and two great Japanese companies, Shimizu and Mitsubishi. "Place Canada" will be a showcase for Canadian high technology and cultural excellence. It will project an image of Canada's industrial spirit, efficiency and natural beauty. It represents, above all, a forum in which to pursue our dreams, our hopes, and our promises to the generations of young Japanese and young Canadians who will partake of the future that we must now build.

Thank you.