

AT THE SAME TIME, I WOULD HOPE THAT BEFORE TOO LONG THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE ENTRY OF CANADIAN SALMON INTO NEW ZEALAND CAN BE REMOVED. THIS IS A MATTER, IN OUR VIEW, WHICH HAS GONE ON FAR TOO LONG. CANADIAN SALMON HAS BEEN EXPORTED FOR DECADES TO COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE REPORTED CASE OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION.

THE POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FLETCHER CHALLENGE INVESTMENT IN CANADA. THEY ARE NOW THE LARGEST SINGLE PRODUCER OF LUMBER IN CANADA. WHEN THAT INVESTMENT IS COMBINED WITH ITS ASSETS HERE IN NEW ZEALAND, FLETCHER CHALLENGE BECOMES THE SECOND LARGEST NEWSPRINT PRODUCER IN THE WORLD. WITH THE WHOLE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET NOW OPEN TO IT, THERE CAN BE EVERY EXPECTATION THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE LUMBER AND NEWSPRINT SECTOR.

TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO COMPARABLE CANADIAN INVESTMENT IN NEW ZEALAND. I WOULD HOPE THAT IN THE COMING MONTHS THIS COULD CHANGE, SPECIALLY IN SUCH SECTORS AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FORESTRY MANAGEMENT. CANADIAN EXPERTISE IN BOTH SECTORS ARE WORLD-CLASS. WITH THE RIGHT CONDITIONS AND ENCOURAGEMENT, I HOPE TO SEE THE NAMES OF CANADIAN COMPANIES BECOME AS FAMILIAR TO NEW ZEALANDERS AS FLETCHER CHALLENGE IS TO CANADIANS.

THE DIRECT AIR LINK BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES HAS HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT. OUR GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS EXCHANGES HAVE BECOME EASIER. MOST IMPORTANT, CANADIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS ARE VISITING EACH OTHER IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS. I AM TOLD THAT CANADIANS STAY ON AVERAGE TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS IN NEW ZEALAND WHILE AMERICANS STAY FIFTEEN AND THE JAPANESE SEVEN. I DO NOT HAVE THE REST OF THE SURVEY THOSE STATISTICS WERE TAKEN FROM, BUT I CAN SAFELY ASSUME THE TWENTY-EIGHT DAY STAY FOR CANADIANS CLOSELY COINCIDES WITH THE TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS OF FEBRUARY.