

Foreword

Over the course of the last century, Canada and Australia have forged an enduring and productive relationship. As the British Empire reached its apogee in the final years of the 19th century, the two countries inherited many of the same political, cultural and philosophical beliefs. Although these constituted a strong foundation for lasting friendship, they did not always guarantee bilateral harmony. Indeed, during the first half of this century, our two young countries often chose different ways to emerge from the imperial legacy and to define their place in the modern world. In the aftermath of the Second World War, Canada and Australia developed new and more mature national identities. More recently, in both countries, our international role has been shaped by an awareness that we are Pacific nations, which has enabled us to build on the deep and broad set of relations that characterizes today's partnership.

This brief pamphlet traces the evolution of our association from its beginning in the early 1890s when Canada first turned its attention to the six Australian colonies. The author devotes most of his attention to events down to the 1970s, when the partnership began to take on new dimensions under the governments of Gough Whitlam and Pierre Trudeau. As my opening address to the conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ) in Melbourne on February 16, 1995 illustrates, these recent developments have made this an even more vigorous and important bilateral relationship for both our countries. The volume of trade between the two comparatively small countries, for instance, now surpasses an impressive \$2 billion annually. Similarly, investors in each country view the other as an attractive and profitable place to invest. Canadian investments in Australia currently total close to \$5 billion, while Australians are estimated to have invested around \$2 billion in Canada.

A tradition of military cooperation that began as long ago as the First World War has also developed in new directions as Canada and Australia were drawn together in the 1980s and 1990s by a shared interest in international peacekeeping. As rigid cold war alliances collapsed, creating new opportunities for middle powers to play a role in shaping international order, Canada and Australia have cooperated actively on such issues as United Nations reform, multilateral trade negotiations and nuclear non-proliferation. In the Pacific basin, the two nations are close partners in such initiatives as Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Regional Forum which focuses on Asia-Pacific security. Bilateral cooperation is today close and wide-ranging, so much so that Canada and Australia not only