

I would like very much to tell you what a pleasure it is to be in Melbourne. Unfortunately, my advisers tell me I can't say that.

They tell me there's a rivalry between Melbourne and that city up north, and that the rivalry is so fierce that anything I say down here will be held against me up there.

Anyhow, I've been read my rights -- with the accent on the right to remain silent -- but perhaps I might be allowed to say that I have been impressed by everything I have seen since arriving in Australia on Tuesday night.

I know that this is an important anniversary year for you. One hundred and fifty years ago a land speculator from Tasmania decided this would be a nice place to settle. I find it hard to understand how Tasmania could produce land speculators, but they say he started a trend that has gone on here ever since.

I will speculate no further about the pleasures of Melbourne. But it is nice to be here and to have a chance to meet the senior executives of so many well-known Australian enterprises.

I know that many of you were at the seminar presentation we put on this morning, and I'm grateful for the interest you have demonstrated in doing business with Canada. My hope is that whatever your line of business -- exporting, importing, manufacturing, finance, retailing or whatever -- you found some information in the presentations that will help you form your own business strategy with respect to Canada.

To the speakers who took part in this morning's seminar, please accept my thanks. The support of the

Australian Department of Trade, as demonstrated by the participation of Mr. Field, is particularly appreciated. The willingness of officials from Ralph McKay Ltd. to share their insight into Canadian business added insights for which we are all grateful. Thanks also to participants from Atco, from Touche Ross, from Osler Haskin & Harcourt, from National Mutual Royal Bank and from Investment Canada.

Those of you who were at the seminar will also be acquainted with Frank Petrie, President of the Canadian Export Association, who acted as chairman this morning. You will realize that exporters in Canada certainly have an effective voice through which to speak to Ministers and to the public.

My visit to Australia this week is, in part, a result of a discussion between your Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and my Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, in March of this year. They agreed that Canada would send a mission to Australia led by a Minister. Subsequently Australia is to send a similar mission to Canada. Both missions have been instructed to pay particular attention to the opportunities for interchanges of expertise and technology. We hope they will lead to joint ventures, and I'll get into that a little later.

My second motive in coming to Australia is as part of an effort to increase Canadians' understanding of the importance of trade and other business links across the Pacific.

Canada, too, is a Pacific nation. During the election campaign which brought our government to power 14 months ago, Prime Minister Mulroney quite often pointed to the need for Canada to play a full role in commerce in the Pacific region. As the first