

our largest single promotional event in this market.

Two years ago Canada opened a Consulate in Auckland headed with distinction by our Honorary Consul, Jim Sprott. The best expression of our seriousness of purpose here today is the decision to base a Trade Commissioner here in Auckland to provide support for the Canadian and New Zealand business communities. This afternoon I will take part in a small ceremony to open the new office.

I think many of you know Jim Ganderton, our Commercial Counsellor in Wellington. I hope you will soon get to know Scott Fraser, our new Trade Commissioner in Auckland. We also have a new High Commissioner, Douglas Small, and he'll be visiting Auckland frequently, taking an active role in promoting commercial links between Canada and New Zealand.

We have traditionally received much assistance from your business community. On those many occasions when Canadians needed a hand or a bit of advice the Auckland Chamber of Commerce has always been of great assistance. In particular, I want to take this opportunity to thank Michael Barnett, the International Manager of the Chamber and the members of his committee.

Canadians have seen New Zealand not just as a place to sell their wares. They have also invested here. Alcan aluminum, Bata shoes, Canada Wire and Cable, Home Oil and Seagrams are among the Canadian firms that have investments in this country. The participation by Alberta Gas Chemicals in the methanol plant at Taranaki is probably the most notable Canadian investment in recent years.

There is also New Zealand investment in Canada. Fletcher Challenge has a significant stake in the Canadian economy through its ownership of Crown

Forest Industries. Canadians would welcome further New Zealand investment in Canada. Indeed, those of you who follow Canadian affairs will know that our Government this year created Investment Canada, an agency designed to encourage foreign investment. We believe that Canada is an advantageous base of operations from which to tackle the entire North American market.

The close relationship we have developed in private sector commercial contacts also applies to our official relationship between governments. We can only applaud the actions of your government to phase out the import licensing system and reduce over-all tariff levels. On a more personal level, I look forward to conveying the greetings of Prime Minister Mulroney to Prime Minister Lange in Wellington tomorrow. The two Prime Ministers last met in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Nassau only three weeks ago.

We were pleased to welcome Deputy Prime Minister Palmer and Minister of Transport Prebble to Canada in September. A bilateral air agreement signed by Mr. Prebble was the basis for resumption of direct air services. Mr. Palmer and the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Neilsen, signed an agreement for exchanges of public servants which both governments hope will bring needed new ideas to each other. Their visits also signified New Zealand's desire for a closer, more active relationship with Canada; we share that desire.

Tomorrow I will have a chance to see again my New Zealand counterpart, Mr. Mike Moore, and I hope I can entice him to visit Canada. After all, we can be a good market for you, too.

One topic I will be speaking about in my talks in Wellington will be the prospect of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices