

I admit to being in something of a pickle up here. Yesterday I spoke to a group of businessmen in Melbourne. But, on the advice of counsel, I was unable to tell them I was happy to be in Melbourne. My counsel said that was because of some rivalry between that city and this one.

So here in Sydney I'm in the same fix. I'm obviously delighted to be here, but I can't tell you that. Sydney is an enormously impressive city, but I may have to wait til I get back to Canada to go on record as saying so.

I've been told that modern Australia started just down the street from this hotel, with the arrival of the first European settlers in 1778. In Canada too, we had settlers arriving at that time. Most of ours were United Empire Loyalists, fleeing the American Revolution. I gather yours came from the same place. Actually, we in Canada were subject to the authority of the same Colonial Secretary that you were -- the one this city was named for -- and he put his name on our map, too. Our city of Sydney is in Nova Scotia, on our Atlantic coast. It doesn't have a Melbourne to contend with, however.

It is a pleasure to be here in Australia today 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 TNT to share their insight into Canadian business added an authority 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 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.