

Community. This has many implications for its old Commonwealth partners but perhaps most importantly this also opens up all sorts of new opportunities for cooperation and consultation. The British and Canadian Governments consult constantly on the whole range of the world's political and economic business and the High Commission is an important part of the machinery of consultation. London of course remains a centre of many activities associated with the Commonwealth and I look forward to seeing these expand.

Cooperation in the area of defence, both bilaterally and through NATO remains a priority. During the recent Falklands conflict we strongly supported Britain. When I was Minister of External Affairs, Canada, along with Britain, became a member of the contact group which is striving to bring about the peaceful independence of Namibia. I am still hopeful that a successful conclusion to that process can soon be achieved. In the area of economics and international trade we share many goals, particularly the promotion of world trade through the mechanism of the GATT. In working towards these goals I am looking forward to renewing many old acquaintances in this country and to establishing new working relationships with government ministers and politicians. Science and technology are also areas where I would like to explore the potential for greater bilateral cooperation.

*The Canadian economy seems to be experiencing many of the problems plaguing other industrialised countries in recent years – unemployment, inflation, sagging output and low productivity. How will this affect your work?*

It makes my job all the more challenging. It becomes extremely important that in bad economic times we do not shrink into a protectionist shell that will only make matters worse. Our economic problems are world economic problems which demand a global solution and this is a point which I will be making to British leaders; we have to work our way out of this together. Our unemployment problems have affected the traditional immigration movement to Canada from Britain. We are simply unable to absorb the numbers of immigrants we have in the past. But economic indicators for Canada over the medium term are good, Canada remains a land for immigrants and a land for the future.

In the circumstances I think that economic development through trade and investment must become top priorities for both our countries. British investment has contributed significantly to the development of Canada and continues to be welcome. The rules of our

Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA) have recently been reviewed and its procedures speeded up to further facilitate beneficial investment in Canada. The opportunities are certainly there. There continues to be a strong interest by UK companies in direct investment in Canada. For example British companies have been active in the development of oil and gas resources off our eastern coast, where the expertise developed in the North Sea fields has been of particular importance. While 1982 has witnessed a drop in exports from Canada of raw materials and semi-manufactureds, I am confident that this trade will revive when the expected worldwide economic recovery takes place. I'm also pleased to see that despite the difficult economic situation, the proportion of Canadian exports of high technology and manufactured goods to the United Kingdom is on the rise. This trade will receive continuing emphasis while I am in London.

*Canadian cultural activities in Britain seem to have increased over the past few years. In times of economic restraint do you expect this to continue?*

I think it follows that government people as well as senior businessmen will take us – our products and policies – more seriously if we are seen to be a people capable of excellence in the arts as well as in other fields. Certainly many of our leading corporations and banks are beginning to see it that way. Their increasing involvement in sponsorship of major Canadian cultural events in Britain is a very positive sign. Successfully projecting our cultural achievements in a world centre of the arts is helpful, not only to the cultural community in Canada but to our image as a whole. We now have in the Canada House Cultural Centre a splendid showcase for Canadian artists, musicians and actors. This facility fulfils a worthwhile role especially for younger Canadians who want to establish an international reputation.

*Thank you, Mr. Jamieson.*