

the oil and gas sector to meet informally over a period of several days. We now hope to build on this initiative as well as on relationships that have been, or are being established in other industry sectors.

We are watching with interest your plans for further developing uranium, nickel, iron ore and aluminum. We have many parallel developments in Canada and we feel that we have the potential to work with you in sharing technology and equipment. This could be done on a direct sales basis or through licensing/joint ventures and other co-operative agreements.

Clearly, the tremendous resource developments planned and under way in Western Australia will provide numerous opportunities for expanding your industrial base. Given your human and financial limitations, we assume you will want to concentrate on those areas providing the greatest long-term benefit and we will encourage Canadian firms to explore technology transfers, joint ventures and other investment opportunities.

As many of you know, we in Canada are increasingly looking west to the Pacific economic basin and to Southeast Asia. Certainly, because of major resource and energy developments in Western Canada, we have experienced an impressive westward shift of population and economic activity. It seems to me that such a shift is taking place here as well which underscores again the similarities that exist between Canada and Australia.

Canada and Australia have much in common

Your winter is certainly different than ours! Otherwise I can think of few countries that have so much in common as does Australia and Canada.

We have common parliamentary systems — both functioning within the Commonwealth. We are relatively new countries, short on history but with enviable futures. We are both huge countries with relatively small populations strung along a narrow ribbon — yours along the sea coast, ours along the U.S. border. Beyond our ribbon of population are great unpopulated hinterlands — yours hot most of the year, ours cold. Both are richly blessed with an abundance of natural resources, often located in very remote areas. We are both export-oriented — we have to be, given the resource base of our economies and the need to achieve economies of scale for our developing manufacturing industries.

We also have a great deal in common in other areas which have a relevance to our future trading relationships.

Neither of us is a member of any major economic bloc at a time when economic blocs are consolidating themselves around the world. Indeed Australia and Canada are the only two major industrialized countries without unhampered access to a market of at least 100 million people. This in itself would suggest the need for closer forms of consultation and co-operation.

It is obvious to me that despite our similarities, we both have taken each other to

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