



Statements and Speeches

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CANADA-NEW ZEALAND TRADE

Notes for Remarks by the Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade, to the Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce, Auckland, New Zealand, November 4, 1985.

...Canada, like New Zealand, is a trading nation. Exports bring us 30 per cent of our national income, and they bring you nearly a quarter of yours. They are very important to both countries.

The government in which I have the honour to serve came into office committed to economic renewal. I can assure you that improving our trade performance is at the top of our priorities as we strive towards this goal. It is something we work at very hard. As Minister for International Trade, I consult frequently with my colleagues from the ten provincial governments in Canada. Together, we have developed a national trade strategy.

Perhaps the most significant item on which we reached rapid agreement was that there are two market regions that must get our priority attention — the United States and the Pacific Rim. The importance we give to the United States is no surprise. It takes more than three-quarters of our exports. Indeed, the trade between Canada and the United States exceeds in volume and value the trade between any two other countries in the world.

As for the Pacific Rim, it is the fastest growing region in the world. Canada's trade across the Pacific exceeds our trade across the Atlantic, and it is growing more rapidly. Again, no surprise. Our trade, like yours, was once directed heavily toward London and the Continent. But look what's happened since the war. In Europe, the Common Market has encouraged the Europeans to trade with each other first. And the Pacific Rim has come alive.

It would be something of an understatement to say that Japan has risen from the ashes. And Korea, where both Canadian and New Zealand fighting men were part of the United Nations forces only 30 years ago. At that time, a "nic" was something you got shaving. Now it stands for "newly industrialized countries", and most of them are in the Pacific. The new policies being pursued in China, with its potential market of a billion people, are enormously encouraging. And of course, when we come here to trade, we feel like we're coming home.

Canada is no latecomer to the Pacific region. The airline that brought me here, CP Air, is one of the offspring of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which united Canada from sea to sea nearly 100 years ago. Vancouver has been a major Pacific port ever since. We posted our first trade commissioner to New Zealand, by the way, in 1912.

For Canada, New Zealand is a market whose importance far outweighs its population. It may be the best example of what Canadian industry can do in the Pacific.