

the vanguard of those countries working to expand the international rule of law can perhaps be the most important and enduring contribution of Canada and Australia to the new global civilization.

Canada and Australia, as members of the WTO, partners in the Commonwealth and enthusiastic members of APEC, have a strong common interest in promoting world growth, expanding free trade and advancing the rule of international law. By working together, Canada and Australia can make a significant contribution to the achievement of these common goals.

Is the picture I have just painted too optimistic? Perhaps. But then I have reason to be optimistic. Free trade is not just a practical necessity but a guiding ideal. Only if trade among nations is free will we maintain the foundations of political and other freedoms. I believe that the free exchange of ideas and capital, the open exchange of goods and services, and the security of agreed rules and common institutions is the basis of civilized intercourse between nations. And I am amazed by the speed with which the ideal of free trade is being transformed into a global reality. If nothing else, I now fully expect to be amazed in the years ahead.

Thank you.