

B. THE CANADIAN/AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT

Canada's bilateral relations with Australia are particularly close. They are founded on a sense of mutual trust, confidence and cordial familiarity arising from a series of unique parallels or common experiences in historical development. Both countries share similar broad objectives and a pragmatic approach in areas as widely disparate and comprehensive as cultural values, systems of government, economic development, social policies, foreign affairs, and certain aspects of domestic policies. Both are, of course, part of the Commonwealth. The wide-ranging co-operation that has developed from that basic compatibility has been of considerable advantage to each country.

Extensive interaction between both public and private sectors of Canada and Australia has involved co-operation at the ministerial level of government, useful exchanges at the official level, and frequent contact between the private sectors and also among academics and the professions. The sharing of approaches, goals and interests in many significant areas continues to be a desirable and effective element in formulating respective responses to a wide spectrum of important international issues. They include such subjects as stability and economic development in the Pacific Rim area and within ASEAN, the Law of the Sea, refugee policy, outer space communication, economic development in the Third World, the North-South Dialogue, and political issues in South Africa, Indochina and Afghanistan.

The Australian government has taken every opportunity to emphasize the value it attaches to its association with Canada and to urge that the association be strengthened. Canada also supports such goals. Federal and state ministers from Australia, including the deputy prime minister, have visited Canada recently. Mr. Ellicott, the Minister for Home Affairs, was in Canada in May 1979 and again in March 1980. The Australian Minister for National Development and Energy, Senator J.L. Carrick, also visited Ottawa in March 1980 and the Australian Attorney-General, Senator Peter Durack, was in Ottawa in April 1980. Prime Minister Fraser visited Canada in June 1981. Foreign Minister Street visited Canada twice in 1981. Several Australian state premiers and other senior state representatives are also expected in 1981 and 1982. Minister Lumley led a highly successful mission in May 1980 to demonstrate Canada's desire to strengthen relations with Australia. Senator Graham, representing Minister Lapointe, led a Canadian delegation to the Seventh International Symposium in Melbourne in November 1980. In the past year the premiers of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have traveled to Australia, and Ontario and Québec have sent successful trade missions, the former led by the Ontario minister of trade. Premier Davis is planning a visit to Australia in the near future. Prime Minister Trudeau will