



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

During the past year the emphasis in the work of the Export Trade Development Board has been on its role as a source of advice to the Minister for International Trade, and on consultation with officials and monitoring of government activities that relate to export trade matters. This has involved a definite shift in focus from the activities of the first two years of the Board's operation, when priority was given to dealing with specific items that required immediate attention.

While it may be more difficult to identify significant topics where the Board has had a major impact on government decisions, as a result of this change from "fire fighting" to a more planned method of operation, in fact the contribution to the decision making process may have been greater.

The change has also led to an expanded role for sub-committees which have been formed to do the detailed work on each major subject. The chairman and members of these sub-committees have in each case taken on a considerable added workload, especially as the Board operates with the assistance of only a small, part-time secretariat from the International Trade Development Branch of the Department of External Affairs. This enables the Board to function at a minimal cost in public funds, but does require considerable effort on the part of members. Their names are listed in Appendix II, and I wish to acknowledge the efforts that each has put into this important work.

In order to prevent participation from becoming too onerous, membership is rotational, after three years of service on the average. Retiring this year are Liisa Nichol, Harold Crookell and Billy Rix, who have each served a full three-year term and have each made a