

I am sure you will agree that Australia and Canada have taken good advantage of their healthy and trouble-free relationship. But I think it is important to avoid being complacent. The world is ever increasing in complexity and even old and trusted partners should be alert to new opportunities that may add to their traditional links.

In the field of trade, for example, we have always been quick to take advantage of one another's markets for an ever-increasing range of goods, from industrial raw materials on the one hand to highly sophisticated manufactures on the other. We have both taken care that the formal framework for this exchange keeps pace with changing conditions so that no opportunities should be lost for even closer commercial relationships. The result, I believe, has been a continued and useful awareness of each other's skills and abilities.

But there is a need for more. I am thinking, for instance, of an increase in the exchange of information on our respective domestic scenes. We have gone through a period when some of our most cherished assumptions concerning economic progress and the need to move to even higher standards of living have been severely tested. Goals and objectives are changing. In response, both our governments are giving a great deal of thought to the direction in which our societies should be moving. Although your and our responses may differ, I think we can learn and perhaps derive inspiration from each other.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have tried to give you some insight into the Canadian view of the relations between Australia and Canada. It has been a pleasure to do so because of the absence of problems between us. But good relationships, like good fences, need constant attention. As I see it, the best way to keep a partnership in good health is to explore actively areas for new and expanded co-operation. I think I may say that I have found a receptive climate for these ideas, and I am sure that we can put them into practice.