

the autumn of 1981 to compare notes on mineral resource development, and Prime Minister Trudeau attended the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Melbourne in October.

Our ties with Australia and New Zealand have extended well beyond the federal government to include the Canadian provinces and Australian states. Among other provincial visits to the region were those by the Ontario Premier to Australia and New Zealand in September, and by British Columbia's Minister of Industry and Small Business to Australia in February.

Throughout the past year, there were 12 government officials from Australia working in key positions on two-year assignments in Ottawa, with an equal number of Canadians in Canberra. Journalists and academics, many sponsored by federal and provincial governments or working under university exchange schemes, continued to move between Canada and Australia on the one hand and Canada and New Zealand on the other, in impressively large numbers. Many thousands of Canadians travelled to and from Australia and New Zealand in pursuit of private business opportunities and as tourists.

Canada's relationships with Australia and New Zealand are particularly well illustrated in the breadth of our trade and economic ties. With both Australia and New Zealand, we have continued efforts to put in place government-to-government arrangements which would have the direct effect of encouraging more vigorous trade arrangements through maintaining current preferential access for each other's products, while enhancing Canadian capacity to participate in the enormous energy projects now under way in Australia and New Zealand and in the impressive expansion of Australian resource production and infrastructure development. In particular, this Department has worked with business interests and other government departments to support successful bids by Canadian companies for a major satellite telecommunications project and for the provision of a Telidon videotex network in Australia.

A new, revised Trade and economic agreement, concluded with New Zealand in 1981, would come into force January 1, 1982. Trade discussions with Australia, aimed at revising the existing preferential agreement to take advantage of the vast opportunities of the future, are well under way.

Ties with the South Pacific have received increasing attention in Canada, bolstered by discussions between premiers at the Melbourne Commonwealth heads of government meeting, and by Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to Fiji in October. A number of Canadian government officials have been seconded under the Interchange Canada scheme to assist in key areas in Vanuatu and Western Samoa, and a start has been made in implementing a program of training for senior administrators under a Canadian "Management for Change" allocation which was announced by the Prime Minister during his stop-over in Fiji. The mission-administered fund - a program of assistance to small-scale community development projects - has been particularly successful and appropriate in the South Pacific region, and has increased in amount over the past year from \$600,000 to \$850,000.