

more manufactured goods are included among Australian exports to Canada. I wish that many more Australian companies would follow the lead of Australian corporations such as TNT, Mayne Nickless, Western Mining, BHP, CRA, Fosters and AMCOR, in looking to Canada as a base of regional activities within the total North American marketplace.

I do not want to suggest that the relationship has been all sweetness and light. Our contacts with each other have sometimes been flavoured by strong views and, on a few occasions, by frank disagreement. This is not uncommon in any wide-ranging and sophisticated relationship. The key point is that we have been able to bring mutually agreeable resolution to most of our disagreements over the past century, based on shared interests in doing business and in being responsible members of the international community. I am determined to build on our successes and to work with our Australian friends to give a new impetus to our trade relationship.

I also want to build on the policy convergence that exists between Canada and Australia on a variety of international issues. Canada and Australia share similar views on the benefits of an open, rules-based international trading system. Together, we are working to ensure that the World Trade Organization [WTO] becomes a dynamic force for extending rule-making beyond the level achieved in the Uruguay Round. The WTO has an ambitious agenda of negotiations remaining from the Uruguay Round, such as financial services, maritime transport and government procurement. In conjunction with other international organizations, it will also address "new" trade issues such as the link between environmental and labour standards and trade, competition policy, and rules governing direct investment. I look forward to co-operating closely with Australia as we address these issues through the World Trade Organization and in other international fora.

I said a moment ago that much of the history of the Canada-Australia trade partnership lies in our shared British Commonwealth past. The future of our partnership, however, is tied more to our geographical connection as countries of the Pacific Rim and our mutual interest in the enormous economic promise of the Asia-Pacific region. Canada and Australia have much to gain from the success of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum]. Canada, like Australia, views APEC as a vital instrument for accelerating economic liberalization throughout this most dynamic of regions. APEC is crucial for a number of reasons. The potential for trade with Japan and the Asian "Tigers" remains far from fully realized. Beyond these countries lies China, an enormous and hitherto closed economy. Its emergence - along with that of India - will unsettle the equilibrium of the international trading system, if not effectively managed.

APEC, moreover, is uniquely placed to bridge both sides of the Pacific. It has the potential, if structured properly, to provide