

*Australasia – Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific*

Canada has continued to enjoy close political, economic and trade relations with Australia and New Zealand throughout 1989/90, institutionalized through annual consultations by senior officials. Cooperation continues with these nations on a myriad of issues, including Commonwealth and United Nations affairs, defence cooperation, regional developments and the environment. Canada, Australia and New Zealand consulted particularly closely over the last year on multilateral trade negotiations during the current Uruguay Round, specifically through the Cairns Group, which is working towards reform in agricultural trade.

Canada was pleased to take part in the celebration of the sesquicentennial of New Zealand. At this 150th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of Waitangi, Canadian West Coast natives participated in the celebrations of the Maori people. To launch its festivities, New Zealand hosted the Commonwealth Games in January 1990, at which 324 Canadian athletes competed.

On the trade front, for the first time, Canadian exports to Australia broke the \$1 billion mark; over 70 per cent of Canadian exports had a value-added

component. Canadian firms won important contracts in the region as well. For example, Northern Telecom won five tenders, with sales of \$200 million over five years; MacDonald Dettweiler and Associates won a \$13.5 million contract to supply an automated flight planning and pilot briefing system; and Lovat Tunnel Equipment won a Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works contract for \$5.25 million.

Sales of bovine and dairy breeding stock and genetic material over the last two years went from zero in 1987 to \$11.9 million in 1989. As well, the Royal Canadian Mint won a contract valued at \$1.97 million to produce New Zealand 1989 coins. Overall exports to New Zealand remained steady at \$115.5 million and the country remained an important secure market for Canadian manufactured goods.

Canada displayed a strong interest in the island countries of the South Pacific, notably through a development assistance initiative that focusses on fisheries management, ocean development projects, typhoon relief, and small-scale community projects.

Canada was pleased to have attended the first South Pacific Forum Dialogue meeting held in Kiribati in July 1989. The South Pacific Forum consists of