

EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRALIAN DIECASTERS

(Statement by Mr. J. McEwen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry)



The Australian Diecasters Survey Mission found that a market in North America could be developed for castings produced in low to medium volume, particularly where expensive dies and subsequent machining were involved, Mr. J. McEwen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, said today.

Mr. McEwen, commenting on the report of the Diecasters' Survey Mission to the West Coast of North America, said penetration of this more specialised market would not come overnight, but would require a sound, practical approach on the part of individual firms and the industry as a whole. A calculated approach to the market could prove most rewarding.

There were opportunities in this field, notably in Los Angeles, Oakland and San Diego. However, there was no ready-made market for die-castings in high volume, which was the work the diecasters would prefer.

Mr. McEwen said the Government lent support to the development of export trade through such avenues as export incentives, overseas promotions and the services of Trade Commissioners, but the prime responsibility for developing this market rested with the diecasters themselves. He said he was confident the industry would take full advantage of all opportunities in spite of increasing international competition which demanded greater devotion to management, engineering and marketing skills.

The Diecasters Survey Mission comprised Mr. G.V. Reid, General Manager of Monier C.C. Die Castings Pty Ltd. (Leader); Mr. R. Hay, Managing Director of Huckson Diecastings; Mr. F. Hook, Managing Director of F. Hook Pty Ltd. and Mr. P. Marcusson of the Department of Trade and Industry. The Mission visited the United States and Canadian West Coasts late last year to investigate and report on market possibilities for Australian diecastings.

Mr. McEwen commended the Mission and expressed gratitude for the conscientious effort of each Mission member.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. It begins with the first people who lived on this continent. These people were the Indians, who had lived here for thousands of years. They were divided into many different tribes, each with its own customs and ways of life.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and discovered the Americas. This was the beginning of contact between the Old World and the New World. The Spanish, French, and British soon followed, each claiming parts of the continent for themselves.

The British colonies grew in number and size. They were governed by laws made by the British Parliament in London. But the colonists wanted more freedom. They wanted to make their own laws and to elect their own representatives.

In 1776, the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. They wrote a document called the Declaration of Independence, which stated that all men are created equal and have certain rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The British did not agree with this. They fought a war with the colonies from 1775 to 1783. The colonies won the war and became a new nation, the United States of America.

The new nation had to create a government. It needed a way to make laws and to enforce them. It needed a way to settle disputes between the states. The Constitution was written in 1787 to provide for a strong central government.

The Constitution established three branches of government: the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch. Each branch has its own powers and responsibilities. This system of checks and balances was designed to prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

The first President of the United States was George Washington. He served from 1789 to 1797. He was a hero of the Revolutionary War and a man of great integrity.

Under Washington's leadership, the United States began to take shape. It established diplomatic relations with other nations and began to expand westward. The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 doubled the size of the country.

Thomas Jefferson, the third President, served from 1801 to 1809. He was a man of great vision and a strong believer in the rights of the individual. He believed that the United States should be a nation of farmers and small business owners.

James Madison, the fourth President, served from 1809 to 1817. He was known as the Father of the Constitution. He believed in a strong central government and a system of checks and balances.

The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain. It was a difficult war, but it showed that the United States was now a nation that could stand on its own.

Andrew Jackson, the seventh President, served from 1829 to 1837. He was a man of great energy and a strong believer in the rights of the common man. He was a hero of the War of 1812 and a man of great military skill.

The United States continued to grow and change. It became a nation of many different peoples and cultures. It became a nation of great power and influence.

The history of the United States is a story of a nation that has grown from a small group of colonies to a great power. It is a story of a nation that has fought for its freedom and its rights. It is a story of a nation that has made great contributions to the world.