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**Title:**  
Press statement - Adelaide Chamber of Commerce

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PRESS STATEMENT:FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

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"The Adelaide Chamber of Commerce has done a grave disservice to South Australian industry and business and has revealed its ignorance of the nature of the overseas trade agencies set up by the South Australian Government," the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today.

Mr. Dunstan was answering criticism made in the Chamber's Monthly Newsletter of the South Australian Government's new Trade posts overseas.

Mr. Dunstan said, "South Australia urgently needed to diversify its employment and its exports and had to be particularly aggressive in Asian markets.

"We are Australia's third industrial complex but we only have something like 3% of Asian trade," he said.

"The trade agencies working for the South Australian Government do not duplicate the work of the Australian Trade Commissioners and in fact work in close concert with them."

"Australian Trade Commissioners have pointed out that they are unable to do the amount of detailed market servicing and to push specific investment opportunities for particular areas, in the way that needs to be done if South Australia is to achieve its trade and development objectives."

He said: "All the trade agencies in fact are making use of Australian Trade Commissioners' services, but they are also doing the kind of specialist work which we cannot otherwise obtain."

Mr. Dunstan said that South Australian industrialists in the majority have been lacking in aggressiveness in seeking markets in the areas of Asia on which the State now needed to concentrate.

"There have been a few notable exceptions to this rule, and these industries are co-operating with government in its efforts to ensure that the State gets the kind of trade and development it needs."

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"South Australia's trade figures with Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan are miniscule compared with other Australian States."

"In addition to trade, we have also not maximised our ability to encourage the kinds of development capital and joint ventures we need."

"We can do this in South Australia, but it needs dynamic initiatives by the Government and the private sector".

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