

*Remarks for the  
British Consulate-General Press Conference  
November 26, 2001*

Good afternoon. Today I had the pleasure of visiting with Mr. Michael Bates, British Consulate-General.

Our discussion centered on the strong relationship between the United Kingdom and Mississippi, and how we can make that relationship stronger in years to come.

Mr. Bates works out of Atlanta and has been there since June of this year. I'm sure he and his family have experienced first-hand true Southern hospitality, and I want them to know they are always welcome in Mississippi.

Over the past years, Mississippi and the United Kingdom have built a partnership based on trade and business facilities. The United Kingdom is our state's fifth largest export market, with over \$115 million in trade last year.

Our major exports to the United Kingdom include machinery, woodpulp, cereals, furniture and plastics.

And, on the flip side, the United Kingdom is one of the largest investors in Mississippi, representing 21 percent of international investments.

British-owned businesses currently operate in Greenville, Picayune, Meridian, Starkville, Tupelo, Olive Branch, Brandon, Pelahatchie, Winona, Tylertown, Gulfport, Pascagoula and Brandon.

These businesses cover the spectrum, from agriculture to manufacturing. Products include fabrics, cement, carpet, electronics and petroleum products.

I'm proud of the relationship between the United Kingdom and Mississippi. I believe today's meeting is an important part of keeping that relationship alive and vibrant, and I look forward to working with Mr. Bates to do just that.

As I turn the podium over to Mr. Bates for his remarks, I'd like to thank him for taking time to visit with us here today.

*(Mr. Bates speaks)*

We'll be glad to take a few questions.