

"Australian manufacturers Thursday criticized Japanese trade protection methods, saying Australia was far behind Japan in the "art" of trade protection.

"This criticism, and others, came in a statement issued by the president of the Australian Associated Chambers of Manufacturers, W. W. Pettingell.

"He described the criticism of Japanese methods by Australian Trade Minister John McEwen this week as a blunt denouncement that was a necessary if perhaps overdue reminder of Japan's own approach to protecting its own markets.

"Pettingell said it was time Australians stopped going on the defensive in trade rows with the Japanese and said the Japanese were "past masters in verbal offensive" in trade competition.

"The present controversy on Japan-Australia trade relations had underscored the vital need for both countries to have a comprehensive understanding of each other's problems," Sir Edward Warren, president of the Australia-Japan Business Cooperation Committee, said Thursday.

"Sir Edward said the committee was helping to eliminate areas of misunderstanding.

"Influential businessmen from Japan who are active members of the Japanese committee have agreed with Australian members to recognize the right of each other's government to protect its own domestic industry," Sir Edward said.

"The Australian committee has never backed away from protecting the Australian viewpoint on the federal government's policies and protection.

"I am pleased to say the Japanese members have been equally as frank and sincere in their attitudes."

"Sir Edward said a meeting between the Japanese and Australian committees in May would present an excellent forum to air some of the current problems."

It might be said that there is no question that Japan has a bureaucratic system within its industry. This is particularly true of MITI which is set up to protect local industry, especially small business. However, it is believed that its attempt to over-protect is defeating Japan's own self-interest, particularly with respect to more technological developments. In the United States we welcome foreign investment, even to the extent of 100%. It adds to the increment and economic development of our country. It appears that MITI does not realize that free trade is a basis for mutual respect and understanding and, at the same time, aids greatly in the development of its own country and its resources.