

The Government of Canada has established a five-year, multi-million dollar bilateral assistance programme through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). And since 1986, more than 20 industrial and institutional co-operation projects have been approved totalling \$10 million.

For Jordan, one of the bases for future prosperity is the energy sector. A healthy natural energy base will reduce Jordan's dependence on imported sources, improve its balance of payments and strengthen and diversify its economy.

Therefore, a major thrust of our development assistance program has been in the energy area.

The largest initiative here has been the Petro Canada International Assistance Co-operation (PCIAC) Seismic Acquisition and Technical Assistance Project. This project, initiated in 1987, has involved the expenditure of \$32 million and is designed to assess Jordan's hydrocarbon potential. As an indication of our confidence in, and support for, Jordan's energy potential, the program has just been extended for another two years, involving up to \$15 million in new funds. New emphasis will be placed on technical assistance and training, an area of crucial importance to encouraging energy self-sufficiency.

The PCIAC Program has had important spillovers, with several Calgary firms pursuing other related business in Jordan. It is my hope that the PCIAC Program will lead to yet further interest on the part of Canadian firms active in the energy resource sector.

In this connection, I strongly encourage you all to attend the presentation planned for the last week of November in Calgary, by PCIAC and the Natural Resources Authority of Jordan. It will present the results of their exciting work in the Risha field. Many of you may find it of direct interest to your firms.

Much of the future development of Jordan will depend on private investment and successful training programs geared to help Jordan prosper in the 21st century. This is why we encourage joint ventures. This is also why we have just announced a \$500,000 program to assist Jordan in graduate management training.

I believe that Jordan will become one of the engines for economic growth in the entire Middle East region. I encourage you all to go there; see it for yourself. The opportunities are promising; the future is bright.