

Your Excellency, Senhora Silveira, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I should like to thank you, Your Excellency, for your kind words of welcome, your gracious remarks about my country and your very flattering references to me. I must say flattering, when I consider your own distinguished career, both as a diplomat and, for the last three years, as Minister. Under the leadership of your distinguished President you are successfully pursuing a foreign policy that bears many resemblances to that of my own country. You have, by enlarging the horizons of your foreign relations, strengthened Brazil's position in the world and opened up new markets for Brazilian products. I have also appreciated your words of praise for Canadian-Brazilian relations and I must say the warm hospitality we have received since we first arrived on Brazilian soil has been for us a concrete indication of the seriousness of your views.

I have with me as well senior representatives of my own Department, the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I have brought with me a very senior delegation composed of representatives of Parliament, of business and of several government departments. Members of the media have accompanied us to report on the results we expect to achieve. I have with me, Mr. Marcel Prud'homme, Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of the House of Commons; Mr. Duncan Campbell, President of the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce and Vice-President of the Aluminum Company of Canada; Mr. Gary German, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Canadian Association for Latin American and Special Assistant to the Executive Vice-President of Noranda Mines Limited; Mr. Lou Bourgeois, General Manager of the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Frank Clark, Executive Director of the Canadian Association for Latin America. I have with me as well senior representatives of the Department of Industry, Trade & Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Finance and the Export Development Corporation of Canada.

I have brought a delegation representing such a wide range of interests because we are earnest in our desire to develop closer relations with you. I hope that through the discussions that I and my officials will have with you, we will be able to understand each other's interests, needs and capacities better and to work out concrete new areas in which we can cooperate. For I consider that, while the substance of Canadian-Brazilian relations is significant,