

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL DRUG INDUSTRY HAS LEFT FEW COUNTRIES OF THIS HEMISPHERE UNAFFECTED. CANADA BELIEVES THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION, ESPECIALLY MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, IS ESSENTIAL TO REDUCE THE PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND CONSUMPTION OF ALL TYPES OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES. IN LIGHT OF THE GROWING PROBLEM, CANADA WILL BE GIVING INCREASED EMPHASIS TO COOPERATION IN THIS SECTOR WITH COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. I WOULD NOTE THAT CANADA HAS ADOPTED ITS OWN NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY. WE HAVE BEEN VERY FAVOURABLY IMPRESSED BY THE EFFECTIVE STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE INTER AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD) AND WITH THE STRONG PLEDGES OF SUPPORT TO THE WORK OF CICAD EXPRESSED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AT LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN RESPONSE TO THAT ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION TO SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT OF MEMBER STATES AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES WE HAVE PARTICIPATED POSITIVELY IN RECENT CICAD PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES AND I AM HOPEFUL-AND OPTIMISTIC - THAT OUR COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION WILL INCREASE AND EXPAND OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

I STARTED OUT TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE. CANADIAN PEOPLE, IT SEEMS CLEAR, LIKE AND EVEN LOVE YOUR REGION. OVER ONE MILLION VISITED LAST YEAR AS TOURISTS. SOME 40,000 ARE RESIDENT WITH YOU. THESE MAY NOT BE LARGE NUMBERS TO YOU, BUT THEY ARE QUITE