

Canada will enhance its efforts to expand trade activities in Africa. We will continue providing assistance to our exporters, and will continue supporting initiatives which help to create an environment suitable for and conducive to trade in African countries themselves. Over the next twelve months, the Department of External Affairs will organize a number of incoming and outgoing missions to support Canadian trade interests in Africa. There will be missions in the railway, hydraulic equipment and services sector. There will also be two undertaken in the agricultural equipment sector and numerous others. Moreover, our presence will also be felt at several trade fairs: the Nairobi and Kaduna shows; the Gabon and Kinshasa international fairs. And finally, two Canada trade weeks will be held in Abidjan and in Douala.

The balance of trade between Canada and Africa is heavily weighted in Canada's favour. Our African partners often express a desire to see it evened out. I do not feel that this problem is insoluble. For example, a study is presently being conducted on ways in which an agency such as CIDA might support Canadian companies looking for national partners in the Third World in whose companies they might obtain shares.

I also invite our African partners to make an effort to convince Canadians that they have something to offer. The Canadian government will help them, as we will shortly be doing for Cameroon in the economic days, when about sixty Cameroonian businessmen and government officials, along with five ministers, will visit Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal to publicize their country and to seek intensified trade relations. A few months ago we received a delegation of Tunisian exporters, and our Algerian friends will visit us this fall.

I invite Canadian exporters, thus, to make a serious effort to help their African clients penetrate Canadian markets. And at the same time, I invite Canadian investors to believe in Africa, to establish enterprises there, to help Africa prosper. When trade is a two-way street, the mutual benefits are enormous.

Allow me also to draw your attention to the special edition of Marchés Tropicaux et méditerranéens on Canada and Africa. This special edition gives eloquent expression to the policies, ideas and skills that we are talking about. I heartily congratulate Mr. Pierre Bonnefont, who is here today.

In conclusion, let me again refer to words spoken by our Prime Minister, who in Regina said that a willingness to consult and work with the provinces, the unions and business is not a sign of weakness; on the contrary, it is a test of