

Against this backdrop of tragedy, the accomplishments of King Hussein are all the more remarkable. Where compromise is often seen as a vice, he has dared to be reasonable. Where dialogue can be regarded as an admission of defeat, he has sought negotiation. And where moderation is all too rare, he has been a voice of caution and common sense.

Your Majesty, if we are, today, a few steps closer to a just and lasting peace in the region, it is in no small measure a result of your vision and wisdom. I dare say the Middle East would be a much more stable place if others shared your sense of history - and destiny.

We all know that lasting peace is not something easily ensured. It is constructed diligently and from the bottom up. Truces can be declared. But peace must be built.

It must have a sound economic and social base not simply the proper balance of military forces. Societies dissatisfied with their lot in life can become societies prepared to go to war. They may see little to lose and believe that there is much to gain. If there is to be a durable peace in the Middle East, social and economic strength will be a precondition.

This is why King Hussein's accomplishments in Jordan are of direct interest to Canada. This is why we are so encouraged by his moderation and imagination. This is why Canadians have a common interest in a prosperous and healthy Jordan.

During my 1986 visit, I had the opportunity to experience first hand the immense progress that has been made in establishing a framework for industrialization - the revolution in social services, the expansion of education, the growth in transportation and agriculture. I also, at that time, signed the first Canada-Jordan Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement. This provides the basis for efforts to improve trade and promote co-operation in education and training.

Since the signing of this Agreement, I am proud to say that the relationship between our countries has blossomed. From 1986, exports from Canada have increased five-fold - from \$6 million to over \$35 million in 1988. Our exports range all the way from sophisticated telecommunications equipment to wheat.

The investment picture is also bright. Joint ventures have been introduced and many more are being studied. Three Canadian firms have opened up Middle East regional offices in Amman.