

On behalf of the Canadian Government I should like to thank you and your Government, Foreign Minister Rithauddeen, for the kind invitation which has brought me to Kuala Lumpur. This is the first time I have had the opportunity to visit your country and I have looked forward with a great deal of pleasure to my stay here. The excellent program you have arranged for me has enabled me to gain some insight into current developments in Malaysia and its prospects for the future. I only wish that my visit could have been longer but the demands these days on the time of foreign ministers are so extensive that they must be constantly on the move.

I am particularly impressed by the creative way in which Malaysia is developing its rich human material resources. Malaysia has already taken considerable strides in this respect, and I should like to extend my best wishes to you, your Prime Minister, and your colleagues, as you implement the imaginative and demanding third Malaysian plan. As Minister in charge of the Canadian agency responsible for the implementation of our development cooperation policy, I shall follow your progress with great interest. Malaysia and Canada have established an excellent base of fruitful and constructive cooperation in the development field, and I am certain that the future also will bring us opportunities for cooperation.

I was pleased indeed to mark my visit here by signing, on behalf of Canada, an agreement for a 7.5 million dollars loan for the Kenering and Bersia power project as well as a memorandum of understanding for a grant in order to carry out a geo-chemical survey of the central area of Malaysia.

It is my hope that projects such as these can make a valuable contribution to the development objectives that Malaysia has set for itself and can provide an additional stimulus to the Malaysian economy.

I should also like to note that there is encouraging growth in Malaysia/Canada joint ventures and in initiatives being taken to strengthen economic relations. All these steps reflect solid confidence in the future strength and growth of Malaysia.

It also gives me a great deal of satisfaction that so many Canadians are involved in Malaysia through such programs as the Canadian Executive Service overseas, the CUSO and, of course, the CIDA. Just as important is the considerable number of Malaysians who are pursuing their education and training in Canada.