

dangers of external interference in Africa. And we work at deepening the bonds that bring us together, in the Commonwealth, in La Francophonie, in the agencies of the United Nations.

Over the last three years, Canada has undertaken a full review of our development assistance programme, that African priority has been evident throughout that review. Madame Landry will soon issue an up-to-date strategy to guide our development cooperation as we move toward the year 2000. Africa enjoys a high priority in our strategy for development cooperation, as it does in Canadian foreign policy generally.

Part of our purpose is to increase trade and investment, and we are making modest progress. Last year, five Canadian business persons came to this Conference. This year, in Harare, at the business conference, there will be twelve. (That is almost as many businessmen as bureaucrats). In February the Canadian Exporters Association, with CIDA's help, will set up an office in Harare to promote Canadian investment, transfer of technology, and joint ventures in the SADCC region. Prime Minister Mulroney's recent visit to southern Africa made Canadians, including Canadian business, more aware of the region. The fight against apartheid is causing some business interest to shift to other countries of southern Africa. But that is only a beginning and not yet a trend, and my government would be very interested in discussing realistic ways to increase the interest of our private sector in your economies.

SADCC countries, like other developing regions, are dealing with debt, drought, diversification, and other challenges of development. What is distinctive here is the aggressive presence of apartheid, which is not just a system in one country, but a major source of instability throughout the sub-continent. Among other effects, South Africa's policies in southern Africa systematically disrupt trade, and economic growth, in your countries. SADCC itself is one of the most effective responses to South Africa's policies, and countries here from outside the region are united in seeking to establish transportation links, communication links and other infrastructure, that stay open and keep working. I look forward to meeting later today with representatives of Great Britain and Mozambique to discuss for example rehabilitation of the Limpopo line. That project was among a series of common actions against apartheid agreed to by leaders of the Commonwealth, at the meeting at Vancouver, Canada, in October.