

In like fashion, we as a government are placing high hope in the review of our foreign policy that will soon begin when a green paper is tabled in the House of Commons. By thus putting our cards on the table, so to speak, we are really inviting all the people and organizations with an interest in the international scene to take part in this process. The Members of Parliament will play an important part. I hope that you will contribute toward this review by presenting and actively defending your ideas before this Parliamentary Committee.

Concerning our relations with Canadian businessmen, a priority group with us, I have already indicated that in terms of development potential, there are many business projects that do not have to take a back seat to the conventional type of aid project. The spirit of initiative combined with cooperativeness are the wellsprings of our country's dynamism.

You are no doubt aware of the CIDA program of industrial cooperation. It was created for Canadian businesses wishing to examine the possibilities of industrial cooperation involving a transfer of technology to the developing countries and for developing countries wishing to obtain the participation of Canada's private sector in the development of their economy. The success of this program has been such that project proposals for this year number 1,500, compared with 54 in 1977-78. Even last November, a significant reallocation of funds increased the budget of this program by 50%.

I am presently reviewing a number of new proposals designed to strengthen the linkages between CIDA and the business community. If successful, these changes will make more accessible information on existing and emerging business opportunities. They would also enhance the responsiveness of the Industrial Cooperation Program by making it more flexible.

#### 4 - Canada's Trade Relations with Africa

Finally, allow me to talk to you about our trade relations with Africa.

The African continent offers significant opportunities for Canadian suppliers of goods and services to contribute to the ambitious development plans of many countries in this region. Although Canada's economic and commercial involvement in Africa is a fairly recent phenomenon, our trade with Africa rose from \$880 million in 1974 to more than \$2.7 billion in 1984. Our exports for the same period rose from \$403 million to \$1.5 billion, not counting the more than \$250 million worth of services provided annually.