

This has proved to be very successful and I am pleased to say there are a number of Canadian businessmen here with me today in Cairo. I am committed to working to widen the range of Canadian businesses who are involved internationally. We must search out as many mutually beneficial opportunities as possible.

For your part, the expansion of exports to Canada is heartening. Your non-petroleum sales to our market have shown steady growth over the past few years. The Canadian International Development Agency is providing support to the Egyptian Export Development Bank to encourage the production and export of your products to Canada. I can tell you that your products will be most welcome in our country.

I would like to pay tribute to the pioneering work done by the Egypt-Canada Business Council. Since its inception in 1981, it has provided a forum for businessmen to talk and get to know each other. It has made many substantive recommendations to our two Governments. It has created a climate of trust and friendship that serves us well. There can be no doubt that, as our relations continue to grow, the Council will have an ever more important role to play.

Having experienced for myself the generosity of Egyptians, I would like to invite each of you and your families to visit Canada, to sample first-hand the warmth of our people.

This year is ideal. Canada will be host to the world at Expo 86 in Vancouver. This world fair in transportation and communications has much to offer the visitor, not least of which is the magnificent setting on our west coast, surrounded by towering mountains and the blue Pacific Ocean.

Thank you for your gracious hospitality. It has been a pleasure to meet with you and get to know you.