

have been forged primarily in the crucible of various multi-lateral institutions--the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Commonwealth, and Francophone institutions, in particular, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. Moreover, for economic reasons (particularly), these ties have until now been centred on development assistance. While continuing to strengthen these multilateral relations and to increase its co-operation with Africa in the field of development, the Government feels that Canada-Africa relations have now reached the "differentiation" stage, in that we see more clearly the characteristics of each country and are thus in a position to give our relations with each of them a more specific orientation, within the framework of an overall policy that will be more flexible, more finely tuned and more ambitious. The accent will thus be on bilateral relations; but we will also endeavour to give these relations a broader base and to build up areas that have until now been somewhat neglected, despite our obvious mutual interests, such as trade, industrial co-operation, private investment and cultural exchanges.

Secondly, I wanted to point out to my African counterparts that we in Ottawa have felt for some time the necessity of consulting with them on a more regular basis and over a broader range of international questions than has been the case in the past. Political consultations are of no value unless both sides approach them with open minds, with relatively