

semi-finished products, and the same is true for our exports to the other Gulf States.

I need not remind you that these types of exports -- products that have gone through the manufacturing process in Canada -- are of critical importance to us. They provide the job-creating impetus so vital to the Canadian economy. And the creation of jobs is uppermost in this Government's policies.

There are several factors unique to the Arab markets which also warrant consideration.

Despite short-term fluctuations in world oil markets, the region possesses immense inherent wealth in its natural resources, and thus will continue to provide excellent long term market prospects. Thus, Canadian marketing efforts undertaken in these countries can be expected to have greater benefits in the future than similar efforts in many other parts of the world. It is an area of assured significant market growth.

A number of Arab countries are undergoing a rapid development process. They require know-how and technology in many fields -- communications, transportation, electrification, agriculture, and the establishment of small scale manufacturing industries. All of these are areas in which Canada excels.

The already large infrastructure of plants installed in the last several years will require expertise in operations and maintenance, as well as human resource training. Again, these are areas in which Canada has much to offer.

The product range of our exports, particularly to Saudi Arabia, is remarkably diversified. It includes frozen dinners and fur coats, maple syrup and high technology, including semi-conductors, printed circuit boards and electronic components.