

I am told that the Chamber has full-time offices in Toronto as well as Sao Paulo and that its Toronto manager was awarded the Order of Rio Branco by the Brazilian Government in 1984. It is organizations like your's that do so much in promoting growth in trade, investment and technology transfers.

These objectives contribute to economic development in both countries. More importantly, I think they contribute to understanding, awareness and acceptance of our differences and our similarities.

My Government is putting a high priority on private enterprise and the voluntary sector in leading economic recovery, creating wealth and solving social and economic problems. There are so many things that you can do, as a private non-profit organization that are not possible in the rarified atmosphere of official government-to-government relationships.

I think that I am the first Minister of the new Canadian Government to visit Sao Paulo. Sao Paulo represents the post-war economic miracle of Brazil and is the heart of your industrial strength.

After our meeting here, Mrs. Andre and I will be taking a helicopter flight over the city, which I am told, is the only way to get a panorama of this huge industrial centre.

One of the major objectives of the new Canadian Government is to promote and stimulate international trade. My Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, went to New York shortly after the election and said in no uncertain terms 'Canada is open for business again'.

I am here to tell you the same thing. Canada is open for your business. Canadians, I know, want to develop more business in Brazil.

Brazil-Canada bilateral trade totalled almost \$1.5 billion Canadian dollars last year. This was an increase of over 30% from 1983, and makes Brazil Canada's largest trading partner in South America.

In fact, I was surprised to discover that Brazil is a more important market for Canadian exporters than either France or than Australia and New Zealand combined.