

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

FIRST, LET ME WELCOME YOU ALL HERE TONIGHT. I AM PLEASED TO SEE REPRESENTATIVES OF SO MANY DIFFERENT CANADIAN COMPANIES FROM ACROSS THE LAND ACTIVE IN PURSUING TRADE ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

LET ME ALSO OFFER A SPECIAL "WELCOME HOME" TO OUR AMBASSADORS TO THE ARAB WORLD. I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THEM BY NAME. MOST OF YOU WILL KNOW OUR "OLD HANDS" WHO HAVE BEEN SERVING IN THE REGION FOR SOME TIME:

GARY HARMAN	-	SYRIA
DOUG VALENTINE	-	SAUDI ARABIA
MICHAEL BELL	-	JORDAN
WILFRED-GUY LICARI	-	MOROCCO
GILLES MATHIEU	-	ALGERIA
TIMOTHY WILLIAMS	-	TUNISIA

SOME OF YOU MAY NOT YET HAVE MET OUR AMBASSADORS WHO WERE APPOINTED LAST SUMMER:

MARC BRAULT	-	EGYPT
LARRY DICKENSON	-	KUWAIT
DAVID KARSGAARD	-	IRAQ

I AM SURE THE EXPORT COMMUNITY HERE THIS EVENING WILL JOIN ME IN OFFERING OUR THANKS TO YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT WORK YOU ARE DOING ON OUR BEHALF.

.../2.