

today, whatever the effort required, you must bridge the gap by completing this road, which will become the foundation of your development. We have built the St. Lawrence Seaway; you are contributing to making the Niger navigable.

But it is on the human level, above all, that our respective national objectives and common interests come together. An overriding objective in the political life of our two countries is to enhance the quality of life of our peoples. In Canada, this is not only an objective for our own people. To the extent possible, the Canadian Government seeks to foster it through its programs of assistance to other countries. In its White Paper on Foreign Policy, published in 1970, the Canadian Government stated that aid projects overseas should, and I quote:

"support and foster the growth and evolution of the social, educational, industrial, commercial and administrative systems of the developing countries in such a way that their people can improve their own organization and capacity to produce, distribute and consume goods and services, and thereby improve the quality of life in their countries".

I know of no better way than through the text I have just quoted to explain the reasoning behind Canada's decision to participate with Niger in building this road of Unity and Friendship.