

Your Excellency, Senora de la Puente, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have, I think come to the end of a very successful visit, successful, not only in what it has accomplished in discussions held and projects concluded, but, also successful in very human terms. I must thank you for the cordial welcome you and your Government have given to all of us. The warm hospitality and friendship that we have received since we first arrived on Peruvian soil has been for us a concrete indication of the significance you attach to our relations.

I do not wish to bore you, Excellency, or members of the audience, with an exhaustive enumeration of all the agreements we have reached or announced in the fields of cooperation and trade. These we have discussed amply at our press conference this afternoon. I will say this however, they demonstrate how close our relations have become in the economic field as a result of the considerable efforts of both sides in the last few years. What has been a new dimension on this trip, and what I have particularly enjoyed, have been the wide ranging political discussions we have held. Throughout our conversations, I have appreciated your clarity and your openness. I might add as well your experience, for while we have both been Foreign Ministers but for a short while, I must consider myself a neophyte when I look at your own eminent diplomatic career. You combine a distinguished academic record with a thorough grounding in all the important branches of international affairs.

I have been especially pleased at the results of this visit, for we had intended it to be one of substance. As an earnest of our intentions to develop our relations with you in all areas to the fullest extent possible, I brought with my my colleague, Mr. Marcel Prud'homme, Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of the House of Commons, as well as an extensive delegation representing the Canadian business community and several government departments. In addition, several journalists have accompanied us. I am pleased you have had an opportunity to meet these representatives. As you see from the size and seniority of our delegation, Your Excellency, we take our relations with Peru very seriously indeed.