

Thank you.

My wife, Joan, and I came to Brazil as the Canadian Government's official representatives to the inauguration of Dr. Tancredo Neves, your new President.

It has been a very interesting week for the two of us, since we have never been to Brazil before. I must say, we would have liked to stay longer and see more of the country. It is hard to get to know a country, as large as Canada, by visiting only three of its cities,

That would be the same as you coming to Canada and visiting Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. You would miss the best part of the country, my home town, Calgary and the Rocky Mountains.

Having been here once, I am sure that we will come back again to see some of the things that we have missed on this trip.

As a Member of Parliament and a Cabinet Minister in a democratic government, I must say I am pleased to see your country returning to a more open, democratic system of government.

I speak for Prime Minister Mulroney and for all Canadians in wishing Dr. Neves and his new team every success in the years ahead.

The Government that I represent, the new Progressive Conservative Government, has just come to power in Canada having been out of office for almost twenty years.

So, I have an appreciation of some of the difficulties Dr. Neves will be facing as well as the opportunities he has to take Brazil into a new era.

This seems to be the week of new Presidents in Brazil. I understand that you are electing a new Board of Directors and a new President for the Chamber. I would like to wish Gary German every success in his new post and encourage his efforts to develop closer working, and social, relationships between Brazilian and Canadian businessmen...both here and in Canada.