

- GROUPS OF CANADIAN EXPORTERS WITH SPECIFIC MARKET TARGETS IN MIND - THAT WE HOPE WILL BEAR MORE OF THE BURDEN OF SPREADING THE TRADE MESSAGE, UNDERTAKING TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZING MISSIONS, VISITS AND SO FORTH.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE CANADA-ARAB BUSINESS COUNCIL AND THE EGYPT-CANADA BUSINESS COUNCIL ARE JOINING TOGETHER; RESTRUCTURING; AND REFINANCING THEIR OPERATIONS TO ACHIEVE AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN THE FUTURE. IN A FEW MOMENTS I WILL ASK SAMIR ZALZAL, PRESIDENT OF THE CANADA-ARAB BUSINESS COUNCIL, TO TELL US A BIT MORE ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S PLANS IN THIS REGARD.

BEFORE HE DOES SO, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WANTS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS MERGER, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE "NEW" CANADA-ARAB BUSINESS COUNCIL TO GREATER HEIGHTS IN REPRESENTING CANADA ABROAD. THIS IS WHY WE WILL SUPPORT THE NEW COUNCIL BOTH SUBSTANTIVELY AND FINANCIALLY IN GETTING UNDERWAY.

SAMIR, I WELCOME YOUR INITIATIVES AND WANT TO WISH YOU THE BEST OF SUCCESS IN ADVANCING CANADIAN EXPORT EFFORT TO THE ARAB WORLD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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