

I would like to say first how pleased I am to have the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience and would like to thank the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce for making the occasion possible.

As you may know, I have just arrived from Brasilia where I had the opportunity to meet with President Figueiredo, Chancellor Guerreiro, and other Brazilian Ministers. We reviewed with politicians and officials in some detail the state of the Canada-Brazil bilateral relationship and exchanged views and perceptions on a variety of important hemispheric and international multinational issues of mutual concern.

With satisfaction both "teams" rejoiced in the impressive expansion and strengthening of Canada-Brazil links which have taken place in recent years. Yesterday morning, for example, Foreign Minister Guerreiro and I inaugurated and participated in the opening discussions of the first meeting of the Canada-Brazil Political Affairs Consultative Committee.

The fairly detailed exchange of views on multilateral issues by this Committee is one more element in the consultative process between our two countries which, since 1976, already comprises a Joint Economic and Trade Committee. That framework is conducive to greater understanding, cooperation and friendship between us, at the government level.

I am especially glad to be here when we are marking the tenth anniversary of the incorporation of the Chamber which has worked and is working so hard to further the ties between our two countries.

What a pleasure too to be in the City of Sao Paulo which has held such an important place in the life of Brazil and which is known the world over as a vigorous and thriving centre of commercial and industrial activity.