

Within the Western hemisphere, I can assure you that there is no country more important for us, apart from the United States, than Brazil, and the further we look into the future the larger this vast country looms in our minds. Since the visit here in the autumn of 1974 of the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Alastair Gillespie, we have attempted to pursue our interest in closer relations with you with increased vigour; this was particularly evident last year. In March and then again in November, the President of the Canadian International Development Agency visited here to see how our new assistance strategy for co-operating with countries lying between the industrialized and developing world could apply in Brazil. Through this strategy, which is based on the principle of co-operation between equal partners, we hope among other things to promote co-operation in science and technology, and joint ventures between firms of equal size. I might add, incidentally, that we have committed ourselves to spend around \$18 million in Brazil in conventional forms of developmental co-operation between now and 1981.

In June, we concluded the agreement to establish a Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Matters. In September, our Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whelan, visited here to discuss co-operation in agricultural technology. In November, the first meeting of the Joint Economic Committee was held in Ottawa. Now I am pleased to come here at the head of a delegation representing several government departments to build on these efforts and to prepare for future visits, and I can assure you we shall not let up.

We have always looked upon Brazil as one of our major interlocutors as we have progressively become more engaged in hemispheric affairs. Our own separate political traditions, which are so different from those of most of the other members of the hemisphere, have given us an understanding of the special position occupied by Brazil in the inter-American system. If we look at you outside the framework of the Western hemisphere and in the broader context of the world at large, we see in you a country that is very much a part of the West, but one whose pattern of development allows it to understand the aspirations of the Third World.

We too are well-positioned to appreciate the aspirations of developing nations to attain a more rapid transfer of real resources and accelerate their pace of development. As the co-chairman for the industrialized nations at the Conference on International Co-operation, in which Brazil too is an important participant, we have been working strenuously and closely with

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