

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU TONIGHT AT THIS, THE 46TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE C.E.A.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION IS "THE 1990'S -- MEETING THE CHALLENGE". TODAY, YOU HAVE HEARD EXPERTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS DISCUSSING SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE EXPORT CHALLENGE.

TONIGHT, I WOULD LIKE TO COMPLEMENT THE EFFORTS OF TODAY'S SPEAKERS BY OUTLINING THE CHALLENGES WHICH I SEE AHEAD FOR ALL OF US AND BY EXPLAINING HOW THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WISHES TO HELP YOU MEET THOSE CHALLENGES.

AND I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE WORD YOU. WE HAVE ADOPTED THE NAME EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CANADA FOR A REASON: TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE YOUR DEPARTMENT IN OTTAWA; TO REAFFIRM THAT OUR ROLE IS HELPING YOU SUCCEED; AND TO RECOGNIZE THE