

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE WAY WE LOOK AT THE WORLD IN GENERAL, AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN PARTICULAR? IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE A RELATIVELY STRONG AND DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY WHICH HAS EMPHASIZED NATURAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION, ENERGY, AGRICULTURE AND, TO BIND TOGETHER OUR SCATTERED POPULATION, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION SECTORS, WHICH ARE IN CONSEQUENCE ALL AREAS IN WHICH CANADA CAN OFFER EXPERIENCE TO COUNTRIES IN NEED OF IT. IT MEANS THAT WE ARE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ACTIVE TRADING NATIONS WITH A CONTINUING NEED TO PURSUE EXPORT MARKETS AND TO SEEK FOREIGN INVESTMENT. IT MEANS THAT WE PLACE VERY STRONG STORE BY DEMOCRATIC VALUES, RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL. IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED A FOREIGN POLICY OF GLOBAL SCOPE, BUT OF MODEST PRETENSIONS. IT MEANS THAT, WHILE RECOGNISING THE INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND SHARING MANY OF ITS SECURITY CONCERNS, WE APPROACH OUR GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS FROM A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE.

CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WHICH GO BACK MANY YEARS, ORIGINATED WITH INDIVIDUALS OR, AS WE SAY NOWADAYS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN THE REGION HAVE BEEN BASED IN PART ON TRADE, INVESTMENT AND BANKING. MAJOR CANADIAN COMPANIES LIKE ALCAN,