

WE ARE PLEASED GENERALLY WITH THE GROWING COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA IN THE AERONAUTICAL SECTOR. AEROSPATIALE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING AEROSPACE COMPANIES, HAS CHOSEN CANADAIR AS A PARTNER TO BUILD THE NEW AIRBUS A330-A340. STATE-OF-THE-ART KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY CAN ALSO BE FOUND IN OUR SMALLER AEROSPACE COMPANIES. FOR EXAMPLE, VIRTUAL PROTOTYPE A SMALL COMPANY FROM MONTREAL, SELLS MOST OF ITS HIGH-TECH CONTROL AND DISPLAY SYSTEMS TO FRANCE. CANADA'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY HAS UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY.

IN A RECENT DEVELOPMENT, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE CANADIAN FIRM BOMBARDIER, AS A PARTNER OF THE EUROSHUTTLE CONSORTIUM, OBTAINED THE CONTRACT TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT THE TRAIN CARS WHICH WILL TRANSIT THE EUROTUNNEL. BOMBARDIER HAS SINCE ANNOUNCED AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE ANF-INDUSTRIE, THE FRENCH MEMBER OF THE CONSORTIUM. THIS MEANS THAT THESE FIRMS WILL PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT INDUSTRY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

HERE IN FRANCE I GET THE SAME SENSE THAT I GET IN CANADA: THAT THERE IS A NEW BREED OF ENTREPRENEUR AND BUSINESS LEADER - BOLDER MORE ADVENTURESOME PERHAPS THAN THOSE WHO FORGED OUR EARLIER BILATERAL CONTACTS. FRENCH ENTREPRENEURS SEEM TO BE REALIZING THAT WHILE THERE ARE STRONG TIES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN QUEBEC, THERE ARE ALSO OPPORTUNITIES ELSEWHERE IN CANADA. WHILE THERE ARE TRADITIONAL AREAS OF COOPERATION, THERE ARE PERHAPS EVEN GREATER ONES IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES. IT IS REFRESHING TO SEE FIRMS FROM TORONTO, THE HOME OF NORTHERN TELECOM, AND FLORENCEVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK, THE HOME OF MCCAIN'S FOODS, MAKING INROADS IN FRANCE. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE. INCREASED CONTACT WITH ANY ONE CANADIAN PROVINCE WILL ONLY, I THINK, CREATE GROWING INTEREST IN OTHERS. PROOF OF THIS IS THAT LATER THIS WEEK SOME 25 COMPANIES FROM ALL REGIONS OF CANADA WILL BE VISITING THE EQUIP-AUTO TRADE SHOW.

THIS BROADER APPROACH REFLECTS A NEW INTEREST AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO EXPAND CONTACTS TO ALL REGIONS AND ALL PROVINCES. TWO WEEKS AGO, PREMIER MCKENNA OF NEW BRUNSWICK WAS HERE, FOLLOWING VISITS EARLIER IN THE YEAR BY PREMIER BOURASSA OF QUEBEC AND PREMIER PETERSON OF ONTARIO. A DELEGATION FROM RHONE-ALPES WILL VISIT ONTARIO IN THE COMING MONTHS. THE CANADA/FRANCE RELATIONSHIP NOW ENCOMPASSES ALL OF CANADA FROM COAST TO COAST, AND EVEN TAKES PLACE IN BOTH OF CANADA'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. (COMME VOUS VOYEZ.) THIS IS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WE HEARTILY WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE, FOR IT HOLDS THE POSSIBILITY OF GREATLY EXPANDED AND MORE DIVERSIFIED ECONOMIC COOPERATION.