

Your Excellency, Mrs. Masri, Distinguished Guests:

It is a pleasure for me to be able to officially thank you for your kind hospitality during our stay here in Jordan.

Maureen and I feel that, in these last three days, we have been introduced to both the future and the past - a future dedicated to education and moderation, a past reflecting the best of the world's accomplishments.

For Canadians, who come from one of the world's young societies, the city of Jerash, built and rebuilt through the ages, reflects how much we all owe to the traditions and civilization established here. The diligence and steady vision of modern Jordan are evident in your progress in agriculture, in education, in social services, and the establishment of the infrastructure necessary for industrialization. Your accomplishments have contributed to Jordan's pivotal position in the Middle East - and your high standing among the community of nations.

Your Excellency, you and I signed, yesterday, a trade and economic co-operation agreement between our two countries. Canadian companies are already involved in Jordanian development in transportation, agriculture and environmental protection. We believe considerable scope also exists for us to work together in such sectors as mining, transportation, telecommunications and energy. That framework agreement should move our economic cooperation forward.

We are most pleased that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has accepted my invitation to come to Canada. We look forward to his visit which I know will further strengthen the ties between our peoples.

When I visited Jordan in 1979, His Majesty the King spoke to me of his search for a just and lasting resolution of the Middle East conflict. I have found the Jordanian government as committed as ever today to a fair-minded peace. Few countries have pursued this essential cause with more commitment and energy than you and your countrymen.

I have closely followed your attempts to set the stage for negotiations on the Middle East question. His Majesty the King has constantly maintained that the principle of "land for peace", contained in UN Security Council Resolution 242, should form the basis of any negotiated settlement. In the Jordanian-Palestinian accord of February 1985, he made a far-seeing and major contribution toward that goal.

That negotiations have not yet been able to proceed is a cause of concern to us all. But we deeply admire His Majesty and the Government of Jordan for the many months of strenuous effort they have invested. Your commitment to moderation, in a world of increased stridency, must be applauded and supported.