

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Guests and Dear Friends:

I was very pleased to accept the invitation from the African Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Canada to meet with you today.

Shortly after assuming my duties as Canada's Minister for External Relations, I had the honour of being asked to address the meeting of the Club de Dakar in Montreal. As Minister in a new Government with an overwhelming mandate for change, I looked forward to my new responsibilities. After eight months, it is time now to reflect on what has been achieved.

I shall attempt to view this question on a number of levels.

- To begin with, I should like to focus on our activities as a government.

- Secondly, with all the reservations necessitated by the fact that we are now reviewing our foreign policy, I shall discuss the state of our relations with Africa.

- Thirdly, I wish to inform you of the new spirit that I intend to impart to our programs of cooperation, mainly with Africa.

- Finally, since this is our reason for being here, I shall talk to you about our trade relations and the way in which I would like to see them develop.

1 - The Activities of the Mulroney Government

It is a challenge to try to tell you in a few words the meaning of our activities as a government. What I want you to know is that eight months after being elected, our determination as a government set our public administration in order is still unshakeable. The Prime Minister said at the Regina Conference that governments can no longer take the approach of always doing more: they must do better. And, he added, sometimes better means doing less.

The Prime Minister truly captured the essence of what occurred on September four when he said «Government must not necessarily do more, it must do better; and sometimes better means doing less».