The second theme of your conference is regional development, and the question of supporting the viability of South Africa's neighbours becomes more important every day. That support must be moral as well as tangible, which is why the Prime Minister travelled personally to the Front Line States.

We have increased substantially our direct development assistance to Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana and, through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, to Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho and Swaziland. We are committed to provide $400 million in bilateral assistance to Southern Africa over the next five years.

We attach particular importance to SADCC which brings together nine states in a cooperative effort to develop the regional economy and to reduce their economic dependence on South Africa. Canada was a partner in SADCC from the beginning and is a major contributor to it. Our assistance has steadily increased. We expect to disburse approximately $30 million a year over the next five years to SADCC.

Since 1983 Canadian development assistance totalling almost $140 million has been approved to twenty-one SADCC projects. An additional nine projects worth almost $30 million are in the pipeline. We are involved in regional agricultural projects, the strengthening of SADCC institutions, and capital investments in energy, transportation and communications.

SADCC's commitment to developing alternative transport routes to those through South Africa is central to its objective of increasing regional economic independence. The success of this goal is nowhere more important than in Mozambique, where Renamo guerrillas have disrupted internal agricultural production and transport links vital to the region.

Canada has provided large-scale food aid and relief to Mozambique. Through SADCC we are a major contributor to the rehabilitation of the Nacala rail line and we are monitoring closely plans to upgrade Beira. We call on South Africa to cut off support for Renamo, leaving Mozambique free to develop unhindered.