

Canada, for example, have sought to shore up their independence through an appropriate balance in their relations with major powers, while maintaining their close links with international groupings such as the Arab League and the Organization for African Unity in the case of Egypt, or the Commonwealth and the Agence de coopération technique et culturelle between French-speaking countries, in the case of Canada. Furthermore, our two governments are attempting to diversify their foreign relations and to establish close and beneficial contacts with countries lying beyond their traditional geographical environment.

Egypt and Canada also recognize that international co-operation requires an institutional framework which, at this stage of history, can only be provided by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Both countries have therefore supported the fundamental aims of the United Nations' system and regularly participated in its activities. Prior to the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly and during its proceedings, for example, our two governments sought to defuse the confrontation then threatening on international development issues, and worked actively towards the consensus resolution which was fortunately adopted at the conclusion of the session. I have no doubt that the same constructive spirit will inspire Egypt's participation in the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, which held its first session in Paris last month. As you know, I have the honour to be the Co-Chairman of this conference: and both Egypt and Canada have been appointed to the Energy Commission established by the conference. I am therefore looking forward in my dual capacity as Co-Chairman and leader of the Canadian Delegation to working closely with Egyptian leaders in this endeavour to further international co-operation for the benefit of all.

I note, finally, that Egypt is one of the countries which have shown the most interest in the United Nations' Habitat Conference, which will take place in the Canadian city of Vancouver next June. Since Habitat is a Canadian initiative, we are most grateful for the active co-operation which the Egyptian Government has extended to the United Nations' Secretariat and the Canadian Government in the organization of Habitat, through its membership in the Preparatory Committee, the hosting in Cairo of the African Regional Meeting and its constructive participation in recent proceedings at the General Assembly on the Habitat resolution.