

assemblées annuelles. M. Toupin incarne l'engagement pris par nos pays d'étendre leurs relations économiques et commerciales. De la part de tous ceux qui sont réunis ici aujourd'hui, je voudrais le féliciter chaleureusement de ses efforts et le remercier du dévouement avec lequel il sert le Conseil depuis plusieurs années.

Politically, Canada has developed a mature relationship with Egypt, two weeks ago, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Boutros Ghali headed the Egyptian Delegation to the Francophone Summit in Quebec City. This involvement among so many others underlines Egypt's important status as a leader among Arab nations and its central role in the development of a peaceful solution to the problems in the Middle East.

Culturally, various exchanges have added an important dimension to Canada-Egypt relations. Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet has twice been warmly received in Egypt. As well, Canadians have been captivated by the richness of Egypt's cultural heritage and archeological resources as shown by the impressive exhibit of "Ramsis II and his Times" which was on display last year at the Expo '86 World Trade Fair, held in Vancouver.

Developmental cooperation between our two countries has been a catalyst, accelerating the evolution of meaningful political and economic relations. As Minister of External Relations, responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency, I am pleased to report that since the inception of our aid program in Egypt in 1976, Canada has disbursed over \$145 million in aid through our bilateral program. In addition, CIDA has financed some 60 proposals for Canadian businessmen interested in cooperating and working with Egyptian enterprises, through our Industrial Cooperation Program. The latter program has provided an important vehicle for transferring Canadian product and process know-how to Egyptian companies.

Some of the developmental projects currently being run by CIDA in Egypt involving Canadian exporters are:

- a \$20 million power interconnection project;
- a \$14 million training program for the Egyptian electrical authority, and;
- a \$48 million integrated soil and water project in the lower delta.