

I am honoured to be here, because SADCC is an example of efficiency which is admired wherever development is discussed. Other continents, other regions have much to learn from the way you set your priorities, and achieve them. Canada is proud to be among your partners, and looks forward to increasing our work together. My colleague, the Honourable Monique Landry, has announced our decision to boost by 25 percent Canada's support for SADCC through the Canadian International Development Agency. We expect our spending on SADCC projects to rise from 32 million dollars during the current fiscal year to 40 million dollars next year.

Over and above our SADCC programme, of course, Canada provides development assistance of various kinds to all nine SADCC member-states. Canadian disbursements last year for government-to-government cooperation with SADCC members amounted to an additional one hundred million Canadian dollars.

We have announced two important new bilateral initiatives in Mozambique, where our assistance had been limited to humanitarian and food aid, we are launching a regular planned programme of bilateral cooperation. We expect it to be at the level of about six million Canadian dollars a year, and Memoranda of Understanding are about to be signed. In Zimbabwe and Botswana we are making thirty million dollars available to help finance the two hundred and twenty kilovolt interconnector power line, which is a vital step in making Botswana less dependent on South African power. That was the subject of an agreement signed a year ago by the Heads of Government of Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Canada when Prime Minister Mulroney became the first leader of a major Western power to visit Zimbabwe.

Our contribution will help to provide lines, sub-stations, transformers and reactors. There is one particular aspect I wish to emphasize, half of this funding will be untied, and the project will be carried out by a Zimbabwean firm and a Canadian firm, working in close cooperation. We are continuing to build on local capabilities within SADCC-member countries by using local expertise as much as possible.

Africa is very important to Canada. Despite the oceans between us, we, like you, understand the challenge of building communities across vast distances, of moving economies forward from dependence on natural resources, of bringing different cultures and traditions together. We are one of the Western nations whose only expertise of colonialism has been as a colony. There are of course many kinds of colonialism. I noted my colleague from the Soviet Union's reference to the