

MOMENTS LIKE THIS COME FAR TOO SELDOM IN THE LIFE OF A MINISTER. MY CABINET COLLEAGUES WOULD AGREE WITH ME WHEN I SAY THAT IN OUR 'METIER' IT IS RAPE INDEED TO REACH THE CULMINATION OF A PROCESS, TO REACH THAT POINT WHERE ONE CAN MEASURE THE RESULTS OF ONE'S ACTIONS, AND IN DOING SO, TO BE REPAYED A HUNDREDFOLD.

FIFTEEN MONTHS HAVE GONE BY SINCE NOVEMBER 1984, WHEN I MADE MY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO ETHIOPIA. AND SINCE THAT TIME, SO MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED! SO MANY CANADIANS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CALL FOR HELP! TODAY'S EXHIBITION TELLS THE STORY MOST ELOQUENTLY. THESE PICTURES SPEAK TO US. THEY REMIND US OF WHAT WAS, AND OF THE RESCUE OPERATION THAT INVOLVED US ALL.

IT IS MY HONOUR TODAY TO PAY HOMMAGE TO ALL THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO TOOK PART. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO ENCOURAGE CANADIANS TO CONTINUE IN THIS PATH. AND IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO TELL THEM OF THE ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

NOT TOO LONG AGO, THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATOR, MAURICE STRONG, SPEAKING IN LONDON ABOUT THIS RELIEF OPERATION, COMPARED IT TO A WAR EFFORT IN A TIME OF PEACE. AND INDEED, WHAT TOOK PLACE WAS AN ALL-OUT MOBILISATION OF EFFORT, WHERE CANADA STOOD OUT FOR HER UNPARALLELLED GENEROSITY.