

THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE DEBT ISSUE IS ALSO ENCOURAGING - PARTICULARLY , THE RECENT ACCORD ACHIEVED BY MEXICO AND ITS COMMERCIAL CREDITORS. HOWEVER, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE DEBT CRISIS.

AS THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES IMPROVE, I BELIEVE THAT CANADA, HAVING MAINTAINED ITS MARKET SHARE OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS IN SPITE OF THE REGIONAL DECLINE IN IMPORTS, IS WELL-PLACED TO CAPITALIZE ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF A LONG TRADITION OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION: ATLANTIC CANADA HAS HAD STRONG TRADE LINKS WITH THE CARIBBEAN SINCE THE 18TH CENTURY AND CANADIAN ENGINEERING EXPERTISE BROUGHT FLECTRICITY TO BRAZIL IN THE LATE 1800'S, TO CITE JUST TWO OF MANY EXAMPLES.

WE HAVE GOOD POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH OUR HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBOURS AND ARE SEEN AS A WILLING, UNTHREATENING AND ABLE PARTNER IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.