

We are also co-operating closely with the Algerian Government to seek new forms of economic and industrial co-operation, and prospects for a similar programme of co-operation with the Kingdom of Morocco are good as well. One area we are investigating with these governments is the possibility of tripartite co-operation projects for the development of the natural resources of the Maghreb countries.

Our efforts to develop closer bilateral relations with the Maghreb countries are eased by the fact that we have a language in common, since French is the second language of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Canada is therefore particularly well-placed to provide training programmes in the field of communications for young trainees from Tunisia and Morocco through the facilities of the CBC.

There are other examples I could mention, but perhaps these brief remarks have indicated the importance the Government of Canada attaches to our relations with the Arab world and of our intention to work towards a further expansion of these links. To facilitate this process we have opened two new embassies in the Middle East within the past two years -- one in Saudi Arabia, the other in Iraq -- and, as I mentioned, we hope soon to receive in Ottawa a resident Saudi Arabian Embassy. These important developments reflect the interests we share with the Arab world.

We have a common interest in the re-establishment of peace in the Middle East. There is also a clear complementarity of interest in expanding our political and economic relations with all of the Arab countries. This in itself fosters a broad increase in human contacts and cultural and scientific exchanges. I am convinced the opportunities exist and can be realized if we work together with imagination and goodwill. The Canadian Government has made the initial efforts. It remains for the private citizens of Canada to tap the full potential which exists for co-operation and exchanges, intellectual, cultural, commercial. Only in this way will Canada's interests in the Middle East be fully served and the measure of the Canadian people's willingness to assist in the rapid social, economic and industrial development of the Arab world be fully tested.