

There are also encouraging signs of greater collaboration between Italian and Canadian companies, such as the agreement reached last month by Ansaldo Transporti SPA and UTDC Inc. of Canada, regarding urban passenger transit systems. The Government will do what it can to facilitate industrial cooperation of this sort.

There can be no doubt that Quebec stands to benefit from this Government's policies to develop Canadian trade and foster internationally competitive enterprises. This is reflected in the confident position that has been taken by Premier Bourrassa and the Government of Quebec on the trade challenges facing Quebec industries -- one of meeting competition with new and better products, attracting foreign investments and foreign know how, and making Quebec a hospitable environment for doing business. Indeed, Quebec enterprises have displayed outstanding adaptability and versatility in recent history in profiting from new trade opportunities, and there is every reason to believe they will continue to do so.

What is the perspective, therefore, for those interested in promoting Canadian-Italian relations in a practical way? I would say: very good. The economic communities in Europe and North America are consolidating their internal ties, but countries in both continents are also aware of their global responsibilities. Travel and communications are bringing us together. Global markets encourage more companies in both countries to search for new ideas and new markets. Canada and Italy have a great deal to do together and we depend on your efforts and those of others like you.

One of the advantages that I have as a Foreign Minister in contact with other cultures and other countries is to realize just how extraordinarily lucky we are to live in a country like Canada. A country that not only has the tremendous physical resources and a great sense of future that is ours, the sense of optimism, but it also has the profound freedom that reaches into each of our lives, each of our homes and touches each of our children. There is nowhere else in the world like this country. That splendour of Canada is more often recognized in other places than it is here in this country.