

CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION PLANS ARE WELL ADVANCED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION BY CIDA OF SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROJECTS TO IICA, PAHO AND THE OAS WHICH WILL AMOUNT IN TOTAL TO SOME 15 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. LET ME BE MORE SPECIFIC. CIDA HAS RECENTLY APPROVED A CONTRIBUTION OF 1.3 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS TO THE OAS TO ESTABLISH A FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION WHICH WILL ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO DRAW UPON CANADIAN RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROJETS IN THE AMERICAS. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

THIS PROJECT AND THE OTHERS THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR IN PLANNING WITH IICA AND PAHO ARE AN INDICATION OF THE APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT OF CANADA FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE ORGANISATIONS TO MAKE THEM MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT INSTRUMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION IN THE HEMISPHERE.

AS A SECOND POINT, WE ARE OFTEN ASKED WHY CANADA HAS NOT JOINED THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AS A FULL MEMBER - A STEP WHICH MANY AMERICAN, LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FRIENDS FREQUENTLY URGE US TO TAKE. ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS SINCE WE ACHIEVED PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS IN 1972, SUCCESSIVE