

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am deeply honoured by the invitation to address this most prestigious group, a group that holds in its hands many of the major strands of our bilateral relations. We regard the Câmara de Comércio Brasil-Canada, like its Canadian counterpart, as a most important organization and one with which we are happy to cooperate in expanding the ties between our two countries.

Because of the key role that the two Chambers of Commerce play, I have been glad to have with me on this trip Mr. Duncan Campbell, the President of the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Vice-President of the Aluminum Company of Canada; and Mr. Lou Bourgeois, the General Manager of the Brazil-Canada Chamber of Commerce. I have brought in addition, two other business representatives, Mr. Gary German, the Chairman of the Executive Council of the Canadian Association for Latin America and the Special Assistant to the Executive Vice-President of Noranda Mines Limited, and Mr. Frank Clark, the Executive Director of the Canadian Association for Latin America. I also have with me Mr. Marcel Prud'homme, the Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of the House of Commons as well as senior representatives of my own department and of the Department of Industry, Trade & Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Agriculture, and the Export Development Corporation of Canada.

I am also glad to be here in Sao Paulo, which as a city and a state, is not only the industrial, commercial and agricultural centre of Brazil, but has been the focus of so many of our joint endeavours over the past 80 years.

This city is but the latest stage on my journey through your impressive country. I have been to Manaus in the heart of the Amazon basin where a new Brazil is being carved out of the wilderness. I have admired the striking modernity of your capital Brasilia, the city in which economic guidelines and the targets for this country are decided. Now I find myself in this overwhelming metropolis, which contains a population equal to that of half of my country, and which provides so much of the drive behind the expansion of this country.