

Mr. President
Honourable Ministers
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor for me, as representative of the Canadian Government, to be present at the inauguration of "La Route de l'Unité et de l'Amitié canadienne" (The Road of Unity and Canadian Friendship). I am deeply moved by your warm welcome. I look upon it as evidence of the friendship between the people of Niger and Canada and of the attachment to the human ideals of brotherhood which we share and on which we have begun to build through cooperative efforts. This is not a new experience for me. I have visited this vast country twice before and have had the occasion to appreciate the hospitality of the people of Niger and their friendship towards Canada. Today, once again I have the opportunity - and it is certainly a great pleasure - to once again thank you for your welcome.

My visits to Niger, Mr. President, have enabled me to appreciate your goal and that of your people, to build an honorable place within the great family of African nations. Each time I have come here, I have been able to take stock with great satisfaction of the progress made by your country as a result of your efforts toward its development.