

exist here are a resource that Canadian companies now recognize as a key to success throughout this region.

Third, partnerships between companies from Canada and Dubai would be valuable in participating in the reconstruction of Kuwait. Canada has many assets which suit that task: the Government of Kuwait has stated it will involve Canada closely in the reconstruction effort and the Canadian government has taken a variety of steps to bring together companies with the resources and advantages Kuwait needs. Given Dubai's status as a regional trading and commercial centre, I believe this is an area where we can prosper together.

Building on that potential is the purpose of my visit. I believe both our countries would benefit by even more intensive contacts in the future. Public and private sector visits in both directions build trust and confidence and allow both of us to develop greater awareness of each other's needs and capacities.

You may be assured that my government will work to intensify these contacts both in Canada and through the Canada Trade Centre here.

The crisis through which this region has recently passed has had far-reaching implications. We in Canada recognized the nature of the threat posed by the invasion of Kuwait, and responded in a way that demonstrated the importance we attach to the security and sovereignty of the states of the Gulf region. That is why, on August 23, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney ordered the despatch of three naval vessels, the *Athabasca*, the *Terra Nova* and the *Protecteur*, to help respond to the threat posed.

Those vessels played a full part in the implementation of sanctions, just as the squadron of CF-18 aircraft, based in Qatar, played a full part in the air.

Most of those units have returned to Canada, but the fact that the Canadian government has decided to send a replacement, HMCS *Huron*, which we visited yesterday, is firm evidence of our continued concern for the situation in this region, and our desire to promote our relations with the member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council. I could also point to Canada's involvement in environmental clean-up and monitoring in Bahrain and Qatar, in that respect.

Canada's contribution has also taken the form of demolition experts, who helped with the clearance of Iraqi-laid mine fields in Kuwait. They continue in that capacity today, under the UN banner. Indeed, Canada is providing the largest United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) contingent, in keeping with our long-standing tradition of United Nations peacekeeping.