PAGE THREE PRESS RELEASE NO 3 JAN17 COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BE DEVELOPED TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT. THEY WERE AGREED THAT THIS STRENGTHENING OF TIES COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE CONTEXT OF A REDUCTION IN TRADE BARRIERS AND THE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, THE OBJECTIVE OF THE FORTHCOMING GATT NEGOTIATIONS. THEY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT PROJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION WERE UNDER STUDY. THEY ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE INTEREST OF FRENCH BUSINESS CIRCLES IN NEW INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES IN CDA. 8. THE MINISTERS WERE ALSO IN AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCELERATING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY ASSISTING THEM IN INCREASING THEIR TRADE AND BY SUSTAINED PROGRAMMES OF EXTERNAL AID. THE TWO GOVTS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICIES IN THIS RESPECT, IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE ROLE WHICH FRANCE HAS TRADITIONALLY PLAYED IN THIS FIELD AND OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CON PROGRAMME OF AID TO FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA.

9. THE PRESIDENT OF FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF CDA NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE WARM CORDIALITY AND THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH CHARACTERIZED THEIR DISCUSSIONS. THERE IS NO RPT NO DOUBT THAT THE COMMUNITY OF VIEWS WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT ON THIS OCCASION OPENS THE NOST FAVOURABLE PROSPECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCO-CDN RELATIONS FOR THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND FOR THAT OF THE WESTERN WORLD AS A WHOLE.