Mr. Chairman,
Dear Friends,

I take particular pleasure in being here today, to renew associations with the great number of you whom I have known, worked with and come to depend on through our common involvement in the major issues of our day. There has been an immense collective contribution by people in this room to all aspects of Canadian life from community work to human rights to national politics. It is part of your faith and tradition to make the community work.

In this context, may I pay a special tribute to your national chairman. I have now been dealing with Sydney Spivak for a quarter of a century. His Manitoba voice has been a trusted, compassionate, authoritative source of wise counsel on all items on the national agenda. Adlai Stevenson once said of his part of the Midwest - "On the prairies you can look a long way in all directions." Sid Spivak, while always true to his roots, has brought that gift of broad prospective to all his responsibilities. More than a chairman, he is also a symbol of the commitment and genuine sensitivity of your communities to the major currents and preoccupations of our lively and diverse society.

As a national organization, you have your own clear focus. I think it important to note, and to commend you for, the care and attention with which you relate your specific interests to the aspirations of Canadians -- cultural, economic, social, technical, regional, linguistic, religious and spiritual. This is a natural outcome of the richness and scope of Canada's ties with the State of Israel. The CIC is respected and effective because you match Canadian interests with the vast potential of our relations with Israel. You formulate those relations in terms which Canadians throughout the country can understand and appreciate. You speak with an authority which I am pleased to acknowledge.

Twenty months ago, I outlined to you the Government's approach to the relationship between Canada and Israel. Today, I would like to provide you with an account of our efforts over this period.

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