

Statement

Discours

Department of
External
Affairs



Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

NOTES FOR REMARKS BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,
ON THE OCCASION OF A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE
CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN HONOUR OF
KING HUSSEIN I OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

CALGARY, ALBERTA
October 13, 1989.

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Your Majesty,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour and rare privilege for me to introduce to you today a true friend of Canada and one of the leading statesmen of our times, His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan.

I also wish to extend a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation accompanying His Majesty on his visit, a delegation which includes the Chief of the Royal Court, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and several key ministerial colleagues.

Your Majesty, Canada is committed to expanding the good relations between our two countries. We view Jordan as a positive and stable force for peace and prosperity in the region, and the Government stands ready to do what we can to build on the excellent trade and commercial prospects that already exist.

I have seen for myself the miracle you have brought in the 37 years since you succeeded to the throne. Jordan was once a country with few known resources whose development was sharply limited and whose economic and social problems were considerable.

It is now a proud, modernizing country of formidable human and natural resource potential. A strong infrastructure has been put in place. The education system has been expanded. Business opportunities abound.

In short, Your Majesty, your accomplishment is remarkable. You have given your people a gift sought for generations in a region troubled by conflict and instability: -- the gift of prosperity, order and stability.

Canada's policy towards Jordan is based on a straightforward proposition: that it is in our interest to ensure that the prosperity and welfare of Jordan is safeguarded.

We all know the tragic history of the Middle East region. The wars. The bloodshed. The hatred, ambition and ideological rigidity. The children cheated of their future by retribution and dogma.

Against this backdrop of tragedy, the accomplishments of King Hussein are all the more remarkable. Where compromise is often seen as a vice, he has dared to be reasonable. Where dialogue can be regarded as an admission of defeat, he has sought negotiation. And where moderation is all too rare, he has been a voice of caution and common sense.

Your Majesty, if we are, today, a few steps closer to a just and lasting peace in the region, it is in no small measure a result of your vision and wisdom. I dare say the Middle East would be a much more stable place if others shared your sense of history - and destiny.

We all know that lasting peace is not something easily ensured. It is constructed diligently and from the bottom up. Truces can be declared. But peace must be built.

It must have a sound economic and social base not simply the proper balance of military forces. Societies dissatisfied with their lot in life can become societies prepared to go to war. They may see little to lose and believe that there is much to gain. If there is to be a durable peace in the Middle East, social and economic strength will be a precondition.

This is why King Hussein's accomplishments in Jordan are of direct interest to Canada. This is why we are so encouraged by his moderation and imagination. This is why Canadians have a common interest in a prosperous and healthy Jordan.

During my 1986 visit, I had the opportunity to experience first hand the immense progress that has been made in establishing a framework for industrialization - the revolution in social services, the expansion of education, the growth in transportation and agriculture. I also, at that time, signed the first Canada-Jordan Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement. This provides the basis for efforts to improve trade and promote co-operation in education and training.

Since the signing of this Agreement, I am proud to say that the relationship between our countries has blossomed. From 1986, exports from Canada have increased five-fold - from \$6 million to over \$35 million in 1988. Our exports range all the way from sophisticated telecommunications equipment to wheat.

The investment picture is also bright. Joint ventures have been introduced and many more are being studied. Three Canadian firms have opened up Middle East regional offices in Amman.

The Government of Canada has established a five-year, multi-million dollar bilateral assistance programme through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). And since 1986, more than 20 industrial and institutional co-operation projects have been approved totalling \$10 million.

For Jordan, one of the bases for future prosperity is the energy sector. A healthy natural energy base will reduce Jordan's dependence on imported sources, improve its balance of payments and strengthen and diversify its economy.

Therefore, a major thrust of our development assistance program has been in the energy area.

The largest initiative here has been the Petro Canada International Assistance Co-operation (PCIAC) Seismic Acquisition and Technical Assistance Project. This project, initiated in 1987, has involved the expenditure of \$32 million and is designed to assess Jordan's hydrocarbon potential. As an indication of our confidence in, and support for, Jordan's energy potential, the program has just been extended for another two years, involving up to \$15 million in new funds. New emphasis will be placed on technical assistance and training, an area of crucial importance to encouraging energy self-sufficiency.

The PCIAC Program has had important spillovers, with several Calgary firms pursuing other related business in Jordan. It is my hope that the PCIAC Program will lead to yet further interest on the part of Canadian firms active in the energy resource sector.

In this connection, I strongly encourage you all to attend the presentation planned for the last week of November in Calgary, by PCIAC and the Natural Resources Authority of Jordan. It will present the results of their exciting work in the Risha field. Many of you may find it of direct interest to your firms.

Much of the future development of Jordan will depend on private investment and successful training programs geared to help Jordan prosper in the 21st century. This is why we encourage joint ventures. This is also why we have just announced a \$500,000 program to assist Jordan in graduate management training.

I believe that Jordan will become one of the engines for economic growth in the entire Middle East region. I encourage you all to go there; see it for yourself. The opportunities are promising; the future is bright.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the man who honours us today by his presence is one of the true heroes of our time. His strength in the face of adversity, his courage in the midst of challenge, his vision in a region of darkness: they are legendary and worthy of our unstinting support.

It is with immense pleasure that I introduce to you today a friend of Canada, a true statesman of our age, His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan.