

CANADIAN

FOREIGN POLICY

SERIES



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STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

Speech by

Ambassador Richard V. Gorham,
Roving Ambassador for Latin America
and Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of Canada to the Organization of
American States

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Canada

MR. PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL

MR. SECRETARY GENERAL

MR. DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

DISTINGUISHED PERMANENT OBSERVERS

IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE FOR ME PERSONALLY AND IN MY OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS THE AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT OBSERVER OF CANADA TO ADDRESS THIS MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON THE SUBJECT OF CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

BEFORE I TALK ABOUT OUR RELATIONS, LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT CANADA ITSELF AND HOW WE VIEW THE WORLD. GEOGRAPHICALLY AND CLIMATICALLY WE ARE VERY MUCH A NORTHERN COUNTRY STRETCHING ALL THE WAY TO THE ARCTIC OCEAN. WE ARE SO MUCH A NORTHERN COUNTRY THAT WE RARELY USE THE WORD SOUTH TO DESCRIBE ANY PART OF OUR OWN GEOGRAPHY. FOR MOST CANADIANS WHEN WE THINK "SOUTH" WE ARE THINKING OF THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN OR SOUTH AMERICA. SO THERE WE ARE, STUCK AT ONE EXTREME, AND ONLY PARTLY HOSPITABLE, END OF THIS ELONGATED HEMISPHERE, WHICH MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN WHY WE HAVE NOT BEEN UNDERSTOOD, OR VISITED OR, FOR THAT MATTER, INVADED OR TRAMPLED UPON AS MUCH AS MIGHT

OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN THE CASE. WE OCCUPY MORE TERRAIN AND ENJOY OR, DEPENDING ON THE POINT OF VIEW, SUFFER FROM THE LOWEST POPULATION DENSITY OF ANY COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE. WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH ENORMOUS AGRICULTURAL, MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND ARE THEREFORE, LIKE MANY OF YOU, SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICES. WE HAVE BEEN SHAPED BY OUR EUROPEAN ROOTS AND MORE RECENTLY BY THE INFLUENCE OF OUR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOUR. WE ARE DRIVEN BY A MONARCHICAL, PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND THE DYNAMIC TENSION OF TWO DOMINANT CULTURES. BUT, ALTHOUGH WE ARE A NATION OF PREDOMINENTLY EUROPEAN ORIGIN, PRINCIPALLY FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE, WE ARE A LAND OF IMMIGRANTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD WHO FIND IN CANADA NOT A MELTING POT BUT A MOSAIC OF CULTURES AND ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS WHICH GIVE US A DIVERSITY UNCOMMON TO MOST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. WE ARE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND FRANCOPHONIE. CONTRARY TO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS HEMISPHERE, WE DO NOT HAVE A REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE A NEUTRAL OR NON-ALIGNED NATION. AS YOU KNOW, WE WERE A FOUNDING MEMBER OF NATO AND WE CONTINUE TO BE STAUNCH SUPPORTERS IN BOTH DEFENCE AND PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS. BUT OUR BIRTH AS A NATION, NOT SO LONG AGO IN 1867, AND THE MATURING PROCESS SINCE, WERE ESSENTIALLY PEACEFUL (AT LEAST ON THE SURFACE ALTHOUGH, LIKE A DUCK SWIMMING, ANYTHING BUT TRANQUIL UNDERNEATH).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE WAY WE LOOK AT THE WORLD IN GENERAL, AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN PARTICULAR? IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE A RELATIVELY STRONG AND DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY WHICH HAS EMPHASIZED NATURAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION, ENERGY, AGRICULTURE AND, TO BIND TOGETHER OUR SCATTERED POPULATION, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION SECTORS, WHICH ARE IN CONSEQUENCE ALL AREAS IN WHICH CANADA CAN OFFER EXPERIENCE TO COUNTRIES IN NEED OF IT. IT MEANS THAT WE ARE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ACTIVE TRADING NATIONS WITH A CONTINUING NEED TO PURSUE EXPORT MARKETS AND TO SEEK FOREIGN INVESTMENT. IT MEANS THAT WE PLACE VERY STRONG STORE BY DEMOCRATIC VALUES, RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL. IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED A FOREIGN POLICY OF GLOBAL SCOPE, BUT OF MODEST PRETENSIONS. IT MEANS THAT, WHILE RECOGNISING THE INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND SHARING MANY OF ITS SECURITY CONCERNS, WE APPROACH OUR GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS FROM A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE.

CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WHICH GO BACK MANY YEARS, ORIGINATED WITH INDIVIDUALS OR, AS WE SAY NOWADAYS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN THE REGION HAVE BEEN BASED IN PART ON TRADE, INVESTMENT AND BANKING. MAJOR CANADIAN COMPANIES LIKE ALCAN,

BRAZILIAN TRACTION AND SOME CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES WERE ACTIVE IN THE REGION LONG BEFORE ANY CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE. BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL FLOW OF PEOPLE - TYPICALLY BUSINESSMEN, MISSIONARIES AND TOURISTS FROM CANADA AND IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND STUDENTS TO CANADA - WHICH HAS STRENGTHENED MUTUAL AWARENESS OVER THE YEARS.

IN RECENT DECADES WE HAVE WITNESSED THE INSERTION OF GOVERNMENTS, OR THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AS A VITAL ELEMENT IN THE RELATIONSHIP, COMPLEMENTING AND REINFORCING THE NATURAL FLOW OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, GOODS AND SERVICES. CANADA HAS NEGOTIATED FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS AND OTHER FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH MANY COUNTRIES OF THE REGION AS THE BASIS FOR A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TO GIVE DIRECTION AND IMPETUS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF POLICY ISSUES AND FOR THE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS. THESE GOVERNMENTAL LINKAGES, WHICH DATE FROM THE LATE 1940'S WHEN CANADA FIRST ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE REGION, HAVE SERVED TO BROADEN AND DEEPEN CANADA'S DIALOGUE WITH, AND UNDERSTANDING OF, COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE. BUT WE ARE NOW WITNESSING A GEOPOLITICAL CHANGE IN THE REGION, WITH COUNTRIES CLEARLY SEEKING BROADER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. WE ARE VERY MUCH PART OF THIS PROCESS OF ENDEAVORING TO DETERMINE WHAT ROLES WE SHOULD PLAY. IN THIS CONTEXT, PERHAPS I MIGHT

SUMMARIZE THE OVERALL THEMES WHICH DOMINATE TODAY OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN CONTINUE TO BE OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO US. TO PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE, OUR TWO-WAY TRADE LAST YEAR WITH THE REGION AMOUNTED TO SOME 7.5 BILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS WITH THE BALANCE FOUR TO THREE IN YOUR FAVOUR, A TRADE LEVEL SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH WE ACHIEVED WITH HONG KONG, SINGAPORE, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA COMBINED. AMONGST THE MANY THINGS WE BOUGHT FROM YOU, PETROLEUM FROM YOUR REGION REPRESENTED SOME 15 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL OIL IMPORTS. WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE GOOD TRADING PARTNERS BECAUSE AN INCREASING AMOUNT, RECENTLY REACHING 83 PER CENT OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN EXPORTS TO CANADA ENTER OUR COUNTRY DUTY-FREE AND VIRTUALLY ALL COUNTRIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CANADIAN GENERAL SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES. CANADA IS ALSO A MAJOR INVESTOR IN THE REGION, WHICH IS THE SECOND LARGEST RECIPIENT OF CANADIAN INVESTMENT ABROAD AFTER THE UNITED STATES.

THE SPREAD OF DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES WHICH WE HAVE WITNESSED IN RECENT YEARS UNDERLINES AND GIVES SUBSTANCE TO OUR KEY POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE REGION. WE FOLLOW CLOSELY THE INTENSE DIALOGUES WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENTS PURSUE OVER THE FULL

SPECTRUM OF GLOBAL CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS AND THE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE VITAL FORA WHICH HAVE EMERGED IN THE HEMISPHERE OVER THE YEARS, SUCH AS THE RIO GROUP, THE SYSTEMA ECONOMICA LATINAMERICANA AND, OF COURSE, THIS ORGANIZATION. WE OBSERVE, BUT WE ALSO PARTICIPATE. WE CONSIDER MANY OF YOUR GOVERNMENTS AS KEY INTERLOCUTORS.

A MATTER OF VITAL INTEREST TO US IN THE REGION IS STABILITY. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT CANADA IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF ITS POSITION AS A NATION OF THIS HEMISPHERE JUST AS WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE ROLE THAT WE CAN PLAY - AND INDEED WHICH WE ARE PLAYING - IN THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE HEMISPHERE. JUST AS THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AROUND THIS TABLE, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF CANADA HAVE VIEWED THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA WITH DEEP CONCERN. TRADITIONALLY CANADA HAD FEW TIES WITH THE REGION - LITTLE TRADE, MINIMAL INVESTMENT AND UNTIL A DECADE AGO, VERY LITTLE AID. IN THE 1980S, HOWEVER, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, INDEED SUCCESSIVE CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED, IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE, TO ASSIST THE REGION ALONG THE DIFFICULT ROAD TO PEACE AND STABILITY.

CANADA LENT ITS FULL SUPPORT TO THE CONTADORA PROCESS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN EARLY 1983. THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFERED TO

PUT CANADA'S 35 YEAR EXPERIENCE OF PEACEKEEPING AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE CONTADORA GROUP. THIS WAS FURTHER DEVELOPED BY THE THEN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN HIS APRIL, 1984 VISIT TO THE REGION. SUBSEQUENTLY CANADA PROVIDED A SERIES OF WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS ON VERIFICATION AND CONTROL AT THE REQUEST OF THE CONTADORA COUNTRIES. THE EMERGENCE OF THE HISTORIC ESQUIPULAS II ACCORD WAS OF COURSE WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE CURRENT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. OUR LONG STANDING OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN VERIFYING THE SECURITY COMMITMENTS ARISING FROM THE GUATEMALA AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY RECONFIRMED BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. IT WAS NOT ONLY OUR SUBSTANTIAL EXPERTISE AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN PEACEKEEPING THAT LED US TO THIS ROLE. IT WAS DEEP DESIRE AMONG THE CANADIAN PEOPLE TO SEE PEACE AND STABILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA. CANADIAN POLICY CLEARLY REFLECTS THIS CONCERN.

THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA ON MARCH 28 THIS YEAR IN A SPEECH IN NEW YORK UNDERScoreD CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE IN THE REGION:

"CANADA STANDS READY TO UNDERTAKE A PEACE SUPERVISORY ROLE ANYWHERE IN THE REGION WHERE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL,

PROVIDED THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES DESIRE OUR INVOLVEMENT AND CREATE A FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION. OUR POLICY IS CLEAR -- WE SHALL SUPPORT ANY INITIATIVE WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO THE STABILITY OF THE REGION, TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ITS NATIONS, TO PEACE FOR ITS PEOPLES."

THE ACTIVE CONCERN AND OBJECTIVE INTEREST OF CANADA IN THE CONTINUING CRISIS IN CENTRAL AMERICA WAS RECOGNISED BY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR COMMUNIQUE OF APRIL 7 IN WHICH THEY ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO INVITE SPAIN, WEST GERMANY AND CANADA TO DESIGN THE PEACE MECHANISMS FOR THE REGION.

THE SAPOA AGREEMENT IN NICARAGUA WAS SEEN AS A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND WAS SUPPORTED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT. WE WELCOMED THE CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS OF SECRETARY GENERAL BAENA SOARES AS A WITNESS AND VERIFIER OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS. HIS ROLE WAS NOT ONLY SEEN AS BEING HELPFUL TO THE PEACE PROCESS IN CENTRAL AMERICA BUT ALSO INSTRUMENTAL IN ENABLING THIS ORGANIZATION TO FULFIL THE MANDATE AND FURTHER THE PRINCIPLES OF ITS CHARTER.

IT IS DISAPPOINTING TO ALL OF US WHO ARE WORKING TOWARD PEACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA THAT THESE TALKS HAVE BECOME STALLED. WE CALL ON BOTH SIDES TO RENEW THEIR EFFORTS SO THAT THE HOPE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN NICARAGUA WILL BE A REALITY. IN THE BROADER CONTEXT, WE ENCOURAGE THE LEADERS OF THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO WORK TOGETHER TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF ESQUIPULAS II, AND RESTORE THE MOMENTUM OF THE HISTORIC PROCESS WHICH THEY INITIATED ONE YEAR AGO. CANADA STANDS READY TO ASSIST, AS WE HAVE SAID ON NUMEROUS OCCASSIONS, IN ANY PRACTICAL WAY WE CAN.

FOR UNDERSTANDABLE HISTORIC REASONS, CANADA HAS A VERY SPECIAL AND PRIORITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN WITH WHICH WE SHARE A COMMON COLONIAL HERITAGE, A COMMON LANGUAGE, AND COMMON LEGAL AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IS MANIFESTED IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE INTERCHANGES, INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1986 OF CARIBCAN, AN ARRANGEMENT BY WHICH CANADA IS VIRTUALLY A FREE MARKET FOR COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN EXPORTS. OVER THE YEARS THE CARIBBEAN HAS BEEN A PRIORITY BENEFICIARY OF CANADIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PRORAMMES. EACH SUMMER SOME 5,000 PERSONS FROM THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES OBTAIN TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA IN HARVESTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN A PROGRAM WHICH

WE HAVE HAD WITH THOSE COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS WITH MEXICO, FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS TO PROVIDE NEEDED EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE CITIZENS.

A KEY INTEREST FOR US IN THE REGION, AS INDEED GLOBALLY, IS THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET ACHIEVED A REASONABLE MEASURE OF PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES SUFFER NOT ONLY FROM THE LIMITATION OF PERSONAL FREEDOMS AND ECONOMIC INEFFICIENCIES BUT ALSO, AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, DEVELOP DEPENDENCIES AND LINKAGES WHICH ARE NOT OPTIMAL FOR THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE HEMISPHERE. THE PLIGHT OF THE POOREST POPULATION STRATA IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES IS ALSO OF KEY CONCERN TO CANADIANS. SO TOO IS RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. FEW GOVERNMENTS CAN BE TOTALLY ABOVE CRITICISM IN THIS RESPECT, WHICH IS A COMPELLING REASON WHY WE SEE THE NEED AND POSSIBILITY FOR CLOSE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN RIGHTS. CANADA HAS ALSO BEEN A HAVEN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FELT IT NECESSARY TO SEEK INTERNATIONAL REFUGE FROM POLITICAL OR MILITARY TURMOIL. APPROXIMATELY 17,000 REFUGEES HAVE COME TO CANADA FROM THE REGION OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, MOSTLY FROM CENTRAL AMERICA WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF EFFORTS TO ASSIST. CANADA HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED OVER THE SAME PERIOD MORE THAN 22 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AGENCIES FOR THEIR

PROGRAMMES FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THIS AREA. ALL OF THESE FACTORS ARE INTERRELATED. CANADA BELIEVES THAT IT HAS PLAYED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A ROLE IN PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE REGION, THROUGH ACTIVE POLICY DIALOGUE, BY COOPERATION AND BY THE PROVISION OF RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

EXTERNAL DEBT BURDENS ARE A WORRYING FEATURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION OF MANY COUNTRIES AND THEY ARE COMPLICATING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE HEMISPHERE. THE DIVERSION OF RESOURCES TO DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS IS INHIBITING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MANY COUNTRIES. THE PRESSING NEED TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY DEBT IN AN ORDERLY, CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH IS VITAL, AS DISCUSSIONS AT THE TORONTO SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTED. THERE HAS BEEN AS WELL A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY AND IMAGINATION IN SEEKING MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS. INNOVATIONS OF THE LAST YEAR SUCH AS THE MEXICAN ZERO COUPON BOND PURCHASE AND THE BOLIVIAN DEBT BUY-BACK SCHEME HAVE BEEN OBSERVED WITH GREAT INTEREST. MR. CLARK CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ABOUT THE DEBT PROBLEM PRIOR TO THE TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT, AND HE MADE A STRONG EFFORT TO HAVE THE SUMMIT PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES' CONCERNS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THOSE

SECTIONS OF THE SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE ON THE DELICATE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF THE REGION AND THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF DEMOCRATIC REFORM, WHERE MR. CLARK'S WORDING PREVAILED. ACCORDINGLY, CANADA EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE RESOLUTION OF FOREIGN DEBT PROBLEMS, AS A DEBTOR, AS A CREDITOR AND AS A PARTY TO G7 AND SUMMIT DELIBERATIONS WHICH ARE SENSITIZED TO THE CONCERNS OF OUR HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBOURS.

ECONOMIC GROWTH IS CLEARLY A KEY FACTOR IN THIS REGARD AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE A VITAL CATALYST. OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS CANADA HAS PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES A TOTAL OF 924 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. WE ARE PROUD OF THE WORK ALREADY ACHIEVED IN THIS REGARD BY THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA) AND THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (IDRC). I WOULD ALSO MENTION THAT IN RECOGNITION OF CENTRAL AMERICA'S PARTICULAR NEED FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, CANADA HAS CONTRIBUTED OUT OF THE ABOVE AMOUNT TO THE FIVE COUNTRIES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE VALUED AT 167 MILLION DOLLARS AND WE WILL BE CONTRIBUTING SUBSTANTIALLY MORE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. WE WERE A CO-SPONSOR OF THE RECENT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

AND WE WILL MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COORDINATE OUR EXISTING AND FUTURE ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES WITH THIS PLAN. CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT, THROUGH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CHANNELS, IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT AND COOPERATE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THE OAS, OF PAHO, IICA AND OTHER INTER-AMERICA INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER WE HAVE BECOME VERY CONCERNED AT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PROGRAM PLANS AND ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO THE SAME WORTHY OBJECTIVES WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A PLETHORA OF MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, RESOLUTIONS AND APPEALS FOR FUNDS. NOT ONLY DOES THIS LARGE NUMBER OF DIVERSE ACTIVITIES REPRESENT A DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND AN EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS WHICH COULD BE MORE USEFULLY DIRECTED TO TANGIBLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, BUT IT IMPOSES A SEVERE BURDEN ON THE HUMAN RESOURCES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS IN BOTH DONOR AND RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WHICH IMPEDES THEIR ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS EFFECTIVELY AND PROMPTLY AS THEY WOULD LIKE. I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT THE OAS SECRETARIAT COULD RENDER A VALUABLE SERVICE BY ACTING AS A COORDINATOR OF SUCH PROGRAMS AND CONFERENCES TO COMBINE RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES WHERE POSSIBLE AND TO COORDINATE SCHEDULES TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND OVERLAP.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL DRUG INDUSTRY HAS LEFT FEW COUNTRIES OF THIS HEMISPHERE UNAFFECTED. CANADA BELIEVES THAT INTERNATIONAL ACTION, ESPECIALLY MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, IS ESSENTIAL TO REDUCE THE PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING AND CONSUMPTION OF ALL TYPES OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES. IN LIGHT OF THE GROWING PROBLEM, CANADA WILL BE GIVING INCREASED EMPHASIS TO COOPERATION IN THIS SECTOR WITH COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. I WOULD NOTE THAT CANADA HAS ADOPTED ITS OWN NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY. WE HAVE BEEN VERY FAVOURABLY IMPRESSED BY THE EFFECTIVE STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE INTER AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD) AND WITH THE STRONG PLEDGES OF SUPPORT TO THE WORK OF CICAD EXPRESSED BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AT LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN RESPONSE TO THAT ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION TO SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT OF MEMBER STATES AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES WE HAVE PARTICIPATED POSITIVELY IN RECENT CICAD PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES AND I AM HOPEFUL-AND OPTIMISTIC - THAT OUR COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION WILL INCREASE AND EXPAND OVER THE COMING MONTHS.

I STARTED OUT TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE. CANADIAN PEOPLE, IT SEEMS CLEAR, LIKE AND EVEN LOVE YOUR REGION. OVER ONE MILLION VISITED LAST YEAR AS TOURISTS. SOME 40,000 ARE RESIDENT WITH YOU. THESE MAY NOT BE LARGE NUMBERS TO YOU, BUT THEY ARE QUITE

SIGNIFICANT TO US. AND THEY UNDERLINE ANOTHER IMPORTANT, INDEED VITAL, LINK WHICH WE MAINTAIN WITH YOUR GOVERNMENTS - THE PROVISION OF CONSULAR SERVICES TO CANADIANS IN YOUR MIDST. BUT THE FLOW IS NOT ONE WAY. 250,000 OF YOUR TOURISTS, BUSINESSMEN AND STUDENTS VISITED US LAST YEAR. WE ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION TO OUR SHORES AND WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE ALMOST ONE MILLION FIRST AND SECOND GENERATION IMMIGRANTS FROM THE REGION. ONE OF THEM, THE SON OF JAMAICAN IMMIGRANTS, IS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO, OUR LARGEST PROVINCE. ALL OF THEM, FROM WHATEVER COUNTRY IN THE REGION, PLAY A FULL PART IN CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT.

I TURN NOW FROM THE MAIN THEMES WHICH INFLUENCE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH THIS HEMISPHERE'S HISTORIC AND IMPORTANT CONSULTATIVE BODY, THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. I HAVE TWO THINGS TO SAY ON THIS MATTER. FIRSTLY, CANADA IS AN UNAMBIGUOUS SUPPORTER OF THE IDEALS AND OBJECTIVES ESPOUSED BY THE OAS. WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BEING ATTENTIVE OBSERVERS OF THIS IMPORTANT FORUM. WE ARE ALSO ACTIVE FULL MEMBERS OF SEVERAL SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS, NOTABLY THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE, THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY AND THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION PLANS ARE WELL ADVANCED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION BY CIDA OF SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROJECTS TO IICA, PAHO AND THE OAS WHICH WILL AMOUNT IN TOTAL TO SOME 15 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. LET ME BE MORE SPECIFIC. CIDA HAS RECENTLY APPROVED A CONTRIBUTION OF 1.3 MILLION CANADIAN DOLLARS TO THE OAS TO ESTABLISH A FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION WHICH WILL ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO DRAW UPON CANADIAN RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROJETS IN THE AMERICAS. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

THIS PROJECT AND THE OTHERS THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR IN PLANNING WITH IICA AND PAHO ARE AN INDICATION OF THE APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT OF CANADA FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THESE ORGANISATIONS TO MAKE THEM MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT INSTRUMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION IN THE HEMISPHERE.

AS A SECOND POINT, WE ARE OFTEN ASKED WHY CANADA HAS NOT JOINED THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AS A FULL MEMBER - A STEP WHICH MANY AMERICAN, LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FRIENDS FREQUENTLY URGE US TO TAKE. ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS SINCE WE ACHIEVED PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS IN 1972, SUCCESSIVE

GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA HAVE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. HOWEVER, FOR VARIOUS REASONS WE DECLINED TO TAKE THE FINAL STEP. THESE REASONS REFLECT AT TIMES FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES, AT TIMES CONCERNS ABOUT UNDERTAKING ADDITIONAL SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES BY ADHERING TO THE RIO TREATY, AT TIMES CONCERNS THAT FULL MEMBERSHIP MIGHT SUBJECT US TO PRESSURES FROM ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER OR RESTRICT OUR ABILITY FOR INDEPENDENT ACTION AND AT TIMES CONCERNS THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL LATIN AMERICAN OR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, OR WITH THE UNITED STATES, MIGHT SUFFER BECAUSE OF POSITIONS THAT WE, AS NEWCOMERS IN THE ORGANIZATION, MIGHT TAKE IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE, AS MANY OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE OAS HAVE SUGGESTED WE COULD. THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A NATIONAL CONSENSUS IN CANADA IN FAVOUR OF JOINING. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT SEEK MEMBERSHIP.

THAT BEING SAID, CANADA IS ANXIOUS TO BE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN ITS ROLE AS A PERMANENT OBSERVER, AND THAT VANTAGE POINT GIVES US A DISPASSIONATE AND PERHAPS INSTRUCTIVE INSIGHT INTO THE CURRENT ORGANIZATION. WE SHARE, FOR INSTANCE, THE DESIRE TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, BUT WE ALSO SHARE THE SAME CONCERNS OF ALL

PRESENT MEMBERS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND WE ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS BEING ASKED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AS TO WHAT SORT OF HEMISPHERIC ORGANIZATION WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE TO THE PRESENT AND TO THE FUTURE. WE HEAR MANY VOICES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP SUGGESTING THAT THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE CHANGED IN SOME FUNDAMENTAL RESPECTS BUT WE HEAR VERY LITTLE AGREEMENT AS TO WHAT THOSE CHANGES SHOULD BE OR HOW THEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT.

THE 1985 CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH SECRETARY GENERAL BAENA SOARES RECENTLY DECLARED WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE "REVITALIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION", STILL REMAINS UNRATIFIED BY SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION , LEADING THE SECRETARY GENERAL PUBLICLY TO EXPRESS HIS "DISENCHANTMENT BY THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE PROTOCOL'S ENTHUSIASTIC APPROVAL IN 1985 AND THE LENGTHY PROCESS OF ITS RATIFICATION".

FURTHERMORE, WE CANNOT HELP BUT NOTICE THAT THE ORGANIZATION SEEMS NOW ALMOST PARALYZED INTO INACTIVITY BECAUSE ALL OF ITS MEMBERS EXCEPT TWO AS FAR AS I CURRENTLY KNOW - TINY DOMINICA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - HAVE FAILED TO MEET ALL OF THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION AND MOST HAVE QUOTA PAYMENTS SUBSTANTIALLY IN ARREARS. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF

MEMBER NATIONS HAVE RESPONDED RECENTLY TO APPEALS BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO TRY TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM, TO MY MIND THIS CLEARLY INDICATES A VERY LOW PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO THE ORGANIZATION BY ITS OWN MEMBERS. WE CANNOT BUT WONDER TO WHAT EXTENT THE MEMBER NATIONS FULLY BELIEVE IN AND SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION WHICH THEY SO OFTEN URGE US TO JOIN. NEVERTHELESS, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH AND TO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE ALSO HOPE THAT IT WILL ACHIEVE THAT REVITALIZATION THAT MANY OF ITS MEMBERS DESIRE TO MAKE IT MORE RELEVANT AND MEANINGFUL AS AN INSTRUMENT TO DEAL WITH IMPORTANT CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS OF THIS HEMISPHERE. IN MY PERSONAL VIEW, SUCH A REVITALIZATION WOULD HAVE A HIGHLY POSITIVE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN CANADA WITH IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE QUESTION OF EVENTUAL CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND DISTINGUISHED OBSERVERS, I THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO YOU THE NATURE OF CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION AND WITH THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. I HOPE THAT MY REMARKS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO YOU THAT IT REMAINS THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO DEVELOP ALL OF THESE

RELATIONSHIPS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN LIMITS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES. ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT, I EXTEND TO YOU MY FULL ASSURANCES THAT CANADA WILL MAINTAIN ITS POSITIVE INTEREST IN THE ORGANIZATION AND IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE AND DEVELOP THESE RELATIONSHIPS EVEN FURTHER. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU AND WITH OFFICIALS OF THE SECRETARIAT TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE.

THANK YOU.