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PRONONCÉ AU

CONGRÈS SUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
ET LE CONTRÔLE DE LA POLLUTION

PAR



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ET

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HÔTEL RAMADA  
RENAISSANCES

"DEMAIN SERA LA CONSÉQUENCE D'AUJOURD'HUI"

ALLOCUTION D'OUVERTURE AU CONGRÈS SUR LA PROTECTION DE  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE CONTRÔLE DE LA POLLUTION DES FABRIQUES DE  
PÂTES ET PAPIERS

GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTELMEN

BONJOUR MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS

J'AI EU, LE PRINTEMPS DERNIER, L'OCCASION DE RENCONTRER PLUSIEURS  
D'ENTRE VOUS LORS DES CONSULTATIONS PUBLIQUES DU GOUVERNEMENT  
FÉDÉRAL SUR LA STRATÉGIE DE RÉGLEMENTATION POUR LES PÂTES ET  
PAPIERS.

C'EST DONC AVEC GRAND PLAISIR QUE J'AI ACCEPTÉ DE VOUS ADRESSER  
CES QUELQUES MOTS D'INTRODUCTION À L'OCCASION DE VOTRE CONGRÈS  
SUR LA "PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE CONTRÔLE DE LA  
POLLUTION".

J'AI SCRUTÉ LE PROGRAMME DE VOS TROIS PROCHAINS JOURS DE TRAVAIL,  
ET J'Y AI DÉCOUVERT L'ÉVIDENCE DE VOTRE PROFOND ENGAGEMENT À LA  
CAUSE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT:

- VOUS VOULEZ APPROFONDIR LES RÉGLEMENTATIONS NOUVELLES (1<sup>e</sup>  
JOURNÉE);

- VOUS VOULEZ PUISER DANS LES PLUS RÉCENTES TECHNOLOGIES, CELLES D'ICI ET DES AUTRES PAYS, LES SOLUTIONS À VOS PROBLÈMES D'EFFLUENTS (2<sup>e</sup> JOURNÉE);
- VOUS VOULEZ PARTAGER AVEC DES REPRÉSENTANTS D'AUTRES PAYS; (SUÈDE, NORVÈGE, U.S.A., ETC.)
- VOUS VOULEZ EXAMINER DES MODES NOUVEAUX DE "GESTION RESPONSABLE" DE VOTRE ENVIRONNEMENT PAR LE BIAIS DE LA VÉRIFICATION DE CONFORMITÉ ENVIRONNEMENTALE (3<sup>e</sup> JOURNÉE).

CETTE APPROCHE EST EXTRÊMEMENT LOUABLE ET LAISSE PRÉSAGER DES RÉSULTATS POSITIFS ET RAPIDES EN TERMES DE CONFORMITÉ AUX LOIS ET AUSSI EN TERMES D'ENGAGEMENT DE L'INDUSTRIE DANS LA VOIE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT SOUTENABLE. JE VOUS FÉLICITE DONC DE CETTE HEUREUSE INITIATIVE.

TOUTEFOIS LE PROBLÈME DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT N'EST PAS UNIQUEMENT LOCAL OU NATIONAL, MAIS PLANÉTAIRE. MES REMARQUES N'AURONT D'AUTRE BUT QUE D'ALIMENTER NOTRE RÉFLEXION SUR LA NÉCESSITÉ DE SITUER NOS PROBLÈMES IMMÉDIATS DANS UNE PERSPECTIVE PLUS GLOBALE POUR QUE LES SOLUTIONS ADOPTÉES VISENT LE LONG TERME. C'EST LÀ QU'INTERVIENT POUR CHACUN D'ENTRE NOUS L'OBLIGATION DE TRAVAILLER À ASSURER LE DÉVELOPPEMENT SOUTENABLE.

LETS START WITH THE GOOD NEWS.

FIRST OF ALL, MR. ROBERT R. DE COTRET, WHO WAS RESPONSABLE FOR TWO PORT FOLIOS: CHAIRMAN OF TREASURY BOARD AND ACTING MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HAS BEEN APPOINTED LAST WEEK AS FULL-TIME MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT. MR. DE COTRET, A SENIOR POLITICIAN, AN INFLUENT AND LONG TIME MEMBER OF CABINET, HAD MADE NO SECRET OF HIS PROFOUND INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS HEAD OF THE MINISTRY. WITH ALL HIS EXPERIENCE AND ASSETS, HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BE BENEFICIAL BOTH TO THE ORGANIZATION AND THE PUBLIC WHO IS HIGHLY DEMANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

THE SECOND GOOD NEWS IS THAT MONTREAL HAS BEEN CHOSEN ALSO LAST WEEK AS THE HOME OF A NEW UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION. THIS NEW U.N. OFFICE WILL HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BOTH TECHNICALLY AND FINANCIALLY, PHASE OUT THEIR C.F.C.s AND HALON'S, WHICH DESTROY THE EARTH'S PROTECTIVE OZONE LAYER.

THIRD GOOD NEWS; I AM THE HAPPY GRANDFATHER OF A NEW BORN BABY. LAST WEEK, MY DAUGHTER "FRANCE" GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST SON, A 7 1/2 POUND BABY WHO WILL BEAR THE NAME OF VINCENT.

IN HOSPITAL, LAST WEEK, I WAS LOOKING WITH PRIDE AT THIS MARVEL OF NATURE, THIS FRAGILE LITTLE PACKAGE OF LIFE IN ITS CRADLE AND I WAS SAYING THANKS TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THIS INVALUABLE PRESENT AND THANKS FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS YOUNGSTER.

LOOKING AT HIS IMMEDIATE FUTURE, I FELT REALLY OPTIMISTIC. HER MOTHER RUNS A PROFITABLE DRUGSTORE AND HIS FATHER IS A CONSULTANT IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SO THERE IS NOT TOO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT AT FIRST SIGHT. HE IS BORN IN CANADA, ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, WITH ONE OF THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM; ALSO WITH ONE OF THE BEST MEDICARE AND SOCIAL INSURANCE SYSTEM! A COUNTRY WHERE EVERYBODY ENJOYS A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING! (EVERYBODY? NOT QUITE! DIDN'T I HEAR ON THE RADIO LAST WEEK, THAT DESPITE OUR AFFLUENCE, ONE MILLION CANADIAN CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY). I COULD REMEMBER THE COMMENT OF THE SPEAKER. IN TORONTO, ONE IN SEVEN CHILDREN HAS RELIED ON A FOOD BANK AT LEAST THREE TIMES IN THE PAST YEAR. I STARTED FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE; MY OPTIMISM DROPPED.

BUT I TOLD MYSELF: "HE WILL ENJOY A COUNTRY STILL LEFT WITH VAST SPACES AND ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES; WATER, FORESTS, FARM LANDS, ENERGY, HYDROELECTRIC POWER, MINES". (BUT WITH SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCES PROBLEMS, NOT ONLY CANADIAN BUT GLOBAL PROBLEMS) MY OPTIMISM DROPPED A LITTLE DEEPER.

I COULDN'T PLAY DOWN THESE PROBLEMS. I KNEW THEM ALL TOO WELL AND I TOLD MYSELF, WELL RAYMOND, BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF, THIS NEW BORN, TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW WILL HAVE TO FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THE EARTH I AM GOING TO TRANSMIT TO MY GRANDSON, THE EARTH THIS GENERATION WILL LEAVE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS IS NOT IN GOOD SHAPE AND IS DETERIORATING, WE BETTER START WORKING ON THE REAL ISSUES.

## THE PROPHETS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS WE HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS WARNINGS. IN THE LATE SIXTIES, THE UNITED NATIONS SPONSORED A FIRST STUDY ON WORLD DEVELOPMENT. IN A REPORT ENTITLED: "NOUS N'AVONS QU'UNE TERRE", "WE HAVE ONLY ONE EARTH", BARBARA WARD, RENÉ DUBOS AND MANY OTHERS CONCLUDED TO THE URGENT NEED FOR A CHANGE IN ECONOMIC TRENDS, "THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY", WAS THE PROPOSED SOLUTION.

A FEW YEARS LATER, THE STUDIES OF THE CLUB OF ROME CAME OUT WITH THE DRAMATIC REPORT: "THE LIMITS TO GROWTH". THE AUTHORS WERE TELLING US: "EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IS DESTROYING OUR PLANET". WE HAVE HAD IN 1987, THE BRUNDTLAND REPORT "OUR COMMON FUTURE"...I WILL COME BACK TO IT.

AND NOW "THE WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE OF WASHINGTON" (PROJECT 91), TELLS US ABOUT THE EXTREME URGENCY TO ADOPT A WORLDWIDE STRATEGY TO SLOW DOWN GLOBAL WARMING.

THE UNBELIEVABLE - THE DESTRUCTION OF MANKIND - HAS BECOME IMAGINABLE (QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS).

"WE ARE IN A STATE OF WAR FOR SURVIVAL" (RENE DUMONT FAO).

LESTER BROWN IN "THE STATE OF THE PLANET 1989", GIVES US THIS CRUDE WARNING "WE HAVE LOST TWENTY YEARS... IN TEN YEARS FROM NOW IT WILL BE TOO LATE."

YET - THE SENSE OF EMERGENCY IS SLOW PROPAGATING ITSELF THROUGH THE WORLD COMMUNITY. WHY WILL IT BE TOO LATE? BECAUSE WE ARE FACING EXPONENTIAL GROWTH, EXPONENTIAL POPULATION GROWTH, ECONOMIC GROWTH, URBANISATION, POLLUTION GROWTH. GROWTH IS NOT LINEAR, IT IS A PHENOMENON EXPONENTIAL IN NATURE. EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IS DECEPTIVE BECAUSE IT GENERATES IMMENSE NUMBERS... SUDDENLY.

A FRENCH RIDDLE FOR CHILDREN ILLUSTRATES ONE ASPECT OF EXPONENTIAL GROWTH: THE APPARENT SUDDENNESS WITH WHICH IT APPROACHES A FIXED LIMIT: SUPPOSE YOU OWN A POND ON WHICH A WATER LILY IS GROWING, THE LILY PLANT DOUBLES IN SIZE EACH DAY. IF THE LILY PLANT WAS ALLOWED TO GROW UNCHECKED, IT WOULD COVER THE POND IN 30 DAYS CHOKING OFF THE OTHER FORMS OF LIFE IN THE WATER. FOR A LONG TIME THE LILY PLANT SEEMS SMALL AND SO YOU DECIDE NOT TO WORRY ABOUT CUTTING IT BACK AND WAIT UNTIL IT COVERS HALF THE POND! ON WHAT DAY WILL THAT BE?

ANYONE OF YOU CAN ANSWER. ON THE TWENTY NINTH DAY OF COURSE. BUT THEN YOU HAVE ONLY ONE DAY TO SAVE YOUR POND!!!

IN A SIMPLE SYSTEM LIKE THE LILY POND, THE CAUSE OF EXPONENTIAL GROWTH AND ITS FUTURE COURSE ARE RELATIVELY EASY TO UNDERSTAND. WHEN MANY DIFFERENT QUANTITIES (INTERRELATED) ARE GROWING SIMULTANEOUSLY, ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF GROWTH AND THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE SYSTEM BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT INDEED. THE SCIENTISTS HAVE NOT ACHIEVE A FIRM CONSENSUS AS TO THE TIME THAT WE, AS INHABITANTS OF THIS PLANET, HAVE LEFT FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION TO TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO SAVE THE PLANET. WOULDN'T IT BE WISE TO START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE? NOW!

TOMORROW WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCE OF TODAY - AND TODAY WE HAVE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BRUNDTLAND REPORT.

I KNOW THAT YOU PEOPLE SUBSCRIBE TO "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT" TO THE PRINCIPLES AND THOUGHTS EXPRESSED BY THE WORLD'S FIRST LADY OF THE ENVIRONMENT DR. GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. SHE SAID: "ENVIRONMENT IS WHERE WE ALL LIVE, DEVELOPMENT IS WHAT WE ALL DO IN ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE OUR LOT WITHIN THAT ABODE... THE TWO ARE INSEPARABLE"!

ON THE EVE OF THE TABLING OF ITS FINAL REPORT IN FEBRUARY 1987, THE WORLD COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT URGED ALL NATIONS TO MAKE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT THEIR MAIN OBJECTIVE. THE RECOMMENDED ACTION PRINCIPLES WERE NOT TO STOP GROWTH BUT TO

STIMULATE GROWTH SO AS TO BETTER COMBAT POVERTY WHILE CONSERVING AND ENHANCING BASIC RESOURCES. THE KEY TO LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT: MAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

INEXHAUSTIBLE RESOURCES ARE NOW THE BASIS OF LASTING PROGRESS. BUT OUR RESOURCES ARE LIMITED. WE MUST BE MADE AWARE OF THE EXISTING DANGERS INVOLVED IN SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC PROGRESS! MOST OF THE GLOOMY REPORTS OF OUR PROPHETS OF THE ENVIRONMENT HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED. FOR INSTANCE, IT WAS SAID THAT EVEN IF THE DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES ANTICIPATED BY THE M.I.T. MODEL WERE ALLOWED TO OCCUR THROUGH POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND HUMAN INERTIA THEY WOULD NO DOUBT APPEAR FIRST AS A SERIES OF LOCAL CRISES AND DISASTERS. WELL, WE HAVE BEEN AND WE ARE HAVING THEM! NOW! AREN'T WE? THEY BEAR THE NAMES OF LOVE CANAL, TIMES BEACH, SEVESO, BHOPAL, ST-BASILE, HAGERSVILLE, ST-AMABLE...

#### THE DANGERS OF SHORT-TERM PROGRESS

OUR ECONOMIC CULTURE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS WITH A POTENTIAL FOR DISASTER:

- 1- EXCESSIVE BURNING OF COAL WITH A HIGH SULPHUR CONTENT IS THE CAUSE OF ACID RAIN;

- 2- REFUSAL TO TAKE CFCs OFF THE MARKET IMMEDIATELY IS SLOWLY LEADING TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OZONE LAYER;
- 3- EXCESSIVE LOGGING, WITHOUT REFORESTATION, IS CAUSING OUR FORESTS TO DISAPPEAR;
- 4- FAILURE TO RESPECT THE REAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF OUR ARABLE LAND IS CAUSING SOIL DEPLETION, EROSION AND DESERTIFICATION;
- 5- EXCESSIVE USE OF PESTICIDES IS LEADING TO CHEMICAL-LOADED FOODS;
- 6- INORDINATE USE OF FOSSIL FUELS IS HEIGHTENING THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT AND HEATING THE PLANET, BOTH OF WHICH INVOLVE SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

INCREASED PRODUCTION WITH NO CONCERN FOR OUR CAPACITY TO SUPPORT IT WILL RESULT IN SELF-DESTRUCTION.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IMPROVES THE STANDARD OF LIVING FOR SOME, BUT IT ALSO MAKES THE POOR POORER AND IT OFTEN WASTES RESOURCES. PROGRESS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ENABLES US TO PRODUCE MUCH MORE FOOD, YET MORE PEOPLE ARE DYING OF STARVATION TODAY THAN IN THE MIDDLE AGES. WHAT KIND OF A FUTURE ~~WE~~ ARE WE PREPARING FOR TODAY'S YOUTH?

I HATE TO THINK THAT MY GRAND SON AND OUR GRAND CHILDREN WILL BE THE VICTIMS OF OUR LACK OF FORESIGHT AND IMPROVIDENCE.

WE MUST LOOK AHEAD AND START CHANGING OUR PRESENT CONCEPTS OF PROGRESS. OUR NATURAL RESOURCES DO NOT BELONG TO US, THEY BELONG TO SOCIETY, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

CANADA'S SOIL, WATER, MINERAL RESOURCES AND FORESTS ARE ALL PART OF A PRECIOUS HERITAGE WHICH WE MUST WORK TO SAFEGUARD.

THAT IS WHY I FEEL WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COMBINE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS IF WE ARE TO ACCOMPLISH LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND.

AS I SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS ADDRESS, I HAVE EXAMINED YOUR CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND I HAVE DISCOVERED IN IT, EVIDENCE OF A PROFOUND CONCERN AND A REAL COMMITMENT TO A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE AND ENVIRONMENT.

YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT NEW REGULATIONS IN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE MOST RECENT TECHNOLOGIES ON POLLUTION ABATEMENT, YOU WANT TO EXPLORE NEW MANAGEMENT MODES FOR A MORE RESPONSABLE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THIS ATTITUDE HONOURS ALL OF YOU.

I AM WISHING YOU THE MOST FRUITFULL DISCUSSIONS OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS BEARING IN MIND BOTH COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATED EFFLUENT LIMITS AND THE EMERGENCY TO SAVE OUR PLANET.

OUR FUTURE WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCE OF TODAY

CONCLUSION

PERMETTEZ-MOI DE COMPLÉTER CES PAROLES D'ENCOURAGEMENT DANS VOTRE LUTTE À LA POLLUTION PAR QUELQUES MOTS DE BIENVENUE À MONTRÉAL.

VOUS TROUVEREZ CERTAINEMENT MOYEN D'ICI JEUDI DE VISITER QUELQUE PEU LA VILLE. BIEN SÛR, MONTRÉAL EST BIEN POURVUE EN RESTAURANTS DE QUALITÉ QUI SERONT HEUREUX DE VOUS OFFRIR LEUR CUISINE DÉLICATE DANS UNE ATMOSPHÈRE CHALEUREUSE. JE N'AI PAS À INSISTER LÀ-DESSUS!

PAR AILLEURS, JE VOUS SUGGÈRE D'OBSERVER LA VILLE; C'EST UNE VILLE TOUJOURS EN CROISSANCE COMME LES AUTRES GRANDES VILLES DU MONDE. OBSERVEZ AU-DELÀ DES GRATTE-CIEL EN CONSTRUCTION, LA RICHESSE QUI CÔTOIE LA PAUVRETÉ, LE GASPILLAGE QUI VOISINE LE DÉNUEMENT, LA PROPRETÉ DES GRANDES ARTÈRES QUI MASQUE MAL LES PROBLÈMES DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS.

JE VOUS RECOMMANDE ENFIN DE PRENDRE LE TEMPS D'OBSERVER LE FLEUVE SAINT-LAURENT: DU HAUT DE LA MONTAGNE, DU HAUT DU PONT JACQUES-CARTIER OU DANS LE PORT DE MONTRÉAL. MIEUX ENCORE: OFFREZ-VOUS UNE MINI-CROISIÈRE SUR LE FLEUVE! ELLES SONT DISPONIBLES JUSQU'AU 15 OCTOBRE AVEC DEUX DÉPARTS PAR JOUR, AU QUAI VICTORIA DANS LE VIEUX-PORT.

AU-DELÀ DES SUPERBES POINTS DE VUE QUE VOUS AUREZ DE LA VILLE À TOUT MOMENT, AU-DELÀ DES CHENAUx, DES ILES, DES PAYSAGES SAISIS-SANTS QUI RÉsISTENT ENCORE À L'USURE DE LA NAVIGATION COMMERCIALE, VOUS POURREZ REGARDER LA COULEUR DE L'EAU, SA TURBIDITÉ ET PARFOIS SA MORBIDITÉ. LA CONCENTRATION DE POPULATION ET D'INDUSTRIES, SUR LES DEUX RIVES NE MANQUERA PAS DE VOUS FASCINER.

VOUS RAPPELANT ENFIN QUE LE SAINT-LAURENT PREND SA SOURCE DANS LES GRANDS LACS, VOUS N'AUREZ PAS DE PEINE À "VOIR" AVEC LES YEUX DE L'INGÉNIEUR OU DU SCIENTIFIQUE LES MATIÈRES EN SUSPENSION, LA DBO, ET LES QUELQUES 360 PRODUITS TOXIQUES IDENTIFIÉS QUI CIRCULENT DANS LES 9000 MÈTRES-CUBES/SECONDE D'EAU QUI Y TRANSITENT À LA HAUTEUR DE MONTRÉAL.

VOUS POURREZ MÉDITER, NE SERAIT-CE QUE 30 SECONDES SUR LE RÔLE IMPOSSIBLE, DE VIDANGEUR, DE DIFFUSEUR ET DE RÉGÉNÉRATEUR QUE NOTRE MODE DE VIE IMPOSE AU FLEUVE.

C'EST UNE BONNE FAÇON DE VOIR LE VRAI VISAGE DU MAJESTUEUX SAINT-LAURENT, CE FLEUVE QUI FAIT L'OBJET DU PLAN D'ACTION SAINT-LAURENT, LE PROGRAMME DE CINQ ANS DES GOUVERNEMENTS CANADIEN ET QUÉBÉCOIS ET QUI FAIT APPEL À LA CONTRIBUTION DE L'INDUSTRIE POUR REDONNER AU FLEUVE UNE PARTIE DE SA VOCATION ORIGINELLE ET DE SES USAGES.

JE VOUS SOUHAITE BON CONGRÈS ET BON SÉJOUR À MONTRÉAL.