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**NOTES FOR A TOAST TO BE GIVEN BY SPEAKER  
KINSELLA AT AN OFFICIAL DINNER HOSTED  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF ALBANIA**

Your Excellency,

Friends,

Fellow Parliamentarians,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to thank our host, the Prime Minister of Albania, Professor Dr. Sali Berisha, for the hospitality shown to us at this official dinner.

I would also like to offer my personal congratulations to him on his recent re-election. No doubt, Your Excellency, you are finding many similarities between your present and past occupations, that the responsibilities and tasks of a head of government are similar to those of a cardiologist. Both seek to heal critical ailments in order to improve the life of the patient. Indeed, during my visit, I have seen with my own eyes how Albania's political, economic and social health is being restored and, in your capable hands, I have every confidence in its prognosis for the future.

I also would like to acknowledge at this time the presence here of members of the Albania-Canada Friendship Group. As parliamentarians, we have an important responsibility to promote our parliamentary relationship, indeed friendship. The dedication of members of this group to deepening our relationship is greatly appreciated and I would like to congratulate them for their commitment.

Our parliaments, of course, also work closely in such multilateral fora as the NATO Parliamentary Assembly – and here I offer my congratulations to your parliament for participating in this Assembly as full-fledged members of NATO since joining the alliance in July 2009. It is worth noting that the process of accession took place under our host's leadership and I would like to congratulate you personally for this achievement.

Our parliaments also cooperate in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Some of you might have attended the 2008 Fall Meetings of the OSCE PA which were held in Toronto; I know that our Parliament was enriched by the experience of hosting those meetings. And more recently, some Canadian parliamentarians participated in the OSCE PA election observation mission for the 28 June 2009 parliamentary elections in Albania which saw the Prime Minister re-elected.

Whether it is by way of such bilateral visits or at multilateral inter-parliamentary meetings, I have no doubt that the value of parliamentary diplomacy is reinforced.

Thank you again. Please join me in raising a toast to our host, the Prime Minister of Albania, Professor Dr. Sali Berisha. I wish you success in your future.