

## **H & K Communications**

2 Bertona Street, Suite 38  
Nepean, Ontario  
K2G 0W2

Phone: (613) 829-1800

Fax: (613) 421-8781

E-mail: [hkcomm2@rogers.com](mailto:hkcomm2@rogers.com)

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**PRIME MINISTER HARPER WELCOMES**  
**GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL TO OTTAWA**

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Phone (613) 829-1800 Fax (613) 829-6181 E-mail [hturkow@home.com](mailto:hturkow@home.com)

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[Applaudissement]

TRÈS HONORABLE STEPHEN HARPER (Le premier ministre du Canada): Merci beaucoup Madame la chancelière. On reconnaît les vrais amis du Canada quand ils nous rendent visite au début de février. Vos visites précédentes se sont déroulées en juin...

I'll give you a moment (*helps with microphone*).

ANGELA MERKEL (Chancellor of Germany): But I think you said...yeah, now it's working.

TRÈS HONORABLE STEPHEN HARPER: Okay. Merci. Vos visites précédentes se sont déroulées en juin 2010 et en août 2012. Vous avez donc pu apprécier toute la variété de notre climat.

So, Madame Chancellor Angela, welcome. For my part, I've been welcomed to your country on no less than five occasions. Visits that have always been warm and worthwhile, so I hope we're able to do the same for you here.

Now, you and I started representing our respective countries at international meetings some time ago at almost the same time. So we have spent a lot of time together and I just want to say in front of everyone here, I've come to greatly value your judgement and your counsel.

Vous êtes non seulement une politicienne de talent exceptionnel mais également une femme de grande vision. Le monde a grandement besoin de tel leadership.

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Earlier today, we have been meeting in anticipation of the upcoming G7 in Germany in Bavaria, in Elmau. We discussed a broad range of international matters. In particular, we spoke of the most important objective we share: continuing to guide our respective economies during a period of global uncertainty. And we know that despite the relative success of both Germany and Canada over the past few years, considerable uncertainty, volatility and risk are all around us.

Nous avons analysé les raisons d'événements économiques et politiques survenus en Europe. We also touched on a number of security issues including the dangerous situation persisting in Ukraine as a result of Russia's ongoing aggression towards that country, and the global jihadist threat with special attention on Iraq where German military trainers will be working with our forces as part of the international coalition dedicated to combatting the so-called Islamic State.

Comme vous le savez, Madame la chancelière, le monstre djihadiste a étendu un tentacule jusque dans notre parlement. En fait, il a été arrêté dans le corridor tout juste derrière nous en octobre. Durant ce mois tragique, deux soldats canadiens innocents ont été tués dans des attaques d'une révoltante lâcheté sur notre sol.

We've recently put forward--our government has recently put forward--strong legislative measures to respond to the growing threat of terrorism, homegrown or foreign, which seeks to destroy everything we hold dear.

Nous ne réussirons à éradiquer le terrorisme djihadiste que par des actions nationales et internationales énergiques et concertées.

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Finalement, Angela et moi avons aussi évoqué l'accord commercial Canada-Union européenne qui promet de dynamiser et de diversifier nos échanges commerciaux.

I firmly believe that thanks to the Canada-EU trade agreement, there will soon be a new era of even greater economic cooperation between both of our countries.

Now, Angela, I want to thank you once again, as I said, for visiting us in advance of the G7 and also this innovation of doing this tour of capitals before meetings, and I very much look forward to seeing you in Germany. In the meantime, welcome. Bienvenue.

CHANCELLOR MERKEL: (Speaks in German).

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