Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. Mesdames et Messieurs, bonsoir,

I am Maureen O’Neil of IDRC, the International Development Research Centre, and I am delighted that so many of you have come this evening for this important book launch. Je suis ravie de vous accueillir en si grand nombre au lancement de cet important ouvrage.

Many of you may not know all that much about IDRC: We are a Canadian Crown corporation that has been supporting research in the developing world for more than 35 years. We help developing countries use science and knowledge to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems they face. We believe in disseminating ideas and stimulating debate.

IDRC was one of the key supporters of the major international symposium on the Media and the Rwanda Genocide held at Carleton University in 2004, the 10th anniversary of the tragic events that took place in Rwanda.

The symposium spawned the creation of a major media capacity building project in Rwanda known as the Rwanda Initiative. It also led directly to this book. IDRC is pleased to be co-publisher of “The Media and the Rwanda Genocide” as part of our goal of stimulating debate on the important development issues of our day.

Allan Thompson won an IDRC international media fellowship that took him to England and North Africa early in his journalistic career, so we like to think that we helped consolidate his interest in international issues.

Enfin, je suis honorée de vous présenter une personne dont nous connaissons tous à présent les gestes héroïques et les frustrations, l’honorable Roméo Dallaire. Nous savons que pendant les jours sombres du génocide, le lieutenant-général Dallaire était aux commandes de la Mission des Nations Unies pour l’assistance au Rwanda… et qu’il a bien tenté, mais en vain, de convaincre la communauté internationale d’intervenir pour mettre fin à ce massacre, l’un des plus horribles de notre histoire.
Lieutenant-General Dallaire, who received the Order of Canada in 2002, is now a senator, and his internationally-recognized book “Shake Hands with the Devil” was awarded the Governor General’s Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2004.

Je vous invite donc, sénateur Dallaire, à prendre la parole …