

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure to be here with you today in the thriving Asian city of Saint John, one of Canada's gateways to the Pacific.

Before you correct my geography, remember that Asia and the Pacific have a great deal to do with this province, this region and Canada as a whole. It was, after all, a Japanese investment of more than \$50 million in New Brunswick International Paper that helped to promote that firm's operations.

As we stand on the doorstep of the final decade of the twentieth century, we can see the outlines of a very different world emerging. After forty years of evolution within a global system shaped by the Second World War, the world stage is undergoing fundamental and revolutionary change.

It was in 1946 that Winston Churchill uttered the graphic phrase "... an Iron Curtain has descended across the Continent" of Europe. That reflected a Cold War of ideologies which, now is finally winding down. It has been won hands down by the forces of democracy and reason. Receding along with it is the idea of a world divided strongly between two Poles. No longer is every issue seen as a question of us or them. No longer is every third world economy considered a prize to be won by us or lost to them.

The world that is now emerging is much more multi-polar. It is one in which the great international challenges of poverty, of debt, or sustainable development are being more equitably shouldered by a wider group of countries than before. Canada, Japan and our European Summit partners are expected to play, and are playing, larger roles on crucial global issues. This is not because the United States is in decline. Rather, the end of bipolarity means a more equitable sharing of responsibilities, a greater recognition of the power, influence and abilities of the major industrial powers.

Capitalism has beaten communism - not with superior firepower, but with an impressive record of success against a record of depressing failure. Not one developing country has managed to work its way across the threshold of development using the Soviet Union as a role model. That is not propaganda. That is fact. It is the stark lesson of Vietnam, of Mozambique, of Cuba, of every other country that has used a Marxist model. On the other side, we have watched success come to economies that chose the model of capitalism. Korea and Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore have now joined the ranks of aid donors. Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia are not far behind.