

The last year has brought into focus a revolution in global affairs, a transformation without precedent in this century. We are at the dawn of a new era, an era of extraordinary promise and profound challenge for Canada and for the world. Part of my purpose here today is to describe that revolution in global affairs, and some of its consequences. But my purpose is also to put to you a vision of Canada's role in this new era, a Canadian view of the world and a view of Canada in that world.

The symbols of the new age are compelling:

- The Berlin Wall demolished and the Iron Curtain torn in tatters;
- Vaclav Havel, once a prisoner, once a playwright, now President of Czechoslovakia;
- The leaders of the two superpowers, former implacable enemies, meeting in Helsinki in common purpose; and
- The United Nations, once divided and dispirited, now united as never before in acting against aggression in the Gulf, in planning for peace in Cambodia.

Only a few short years ago, those images would have been dismissed as fantasy.

The scope of today's change is measured by the inadequacy of the old words of diplomacy. The terms East and West have lost their meaning. The Cold War, once the dominant motif of global relations, has evaporated. What we used to call the Communist threat has disappeared, both because there is no longer a threat and because communism itself is dead in all but name. National security - once competitive - is now co-operative.

Those are hopeful unprecedented signs that problems we once thought permanent are now being solved. But there are signs of other problems, growing more serious:

- the debilitating tentacles of the international drug trade;
- the pervasive plague of terrorism;
- the dangers of a decaying global environment;
- the proliferation of weapons and of their means of delivery;