

We cannot say to our people "pay no attention to the starving in Africa". Similarly, we cannot say to an international trading environment that is threatening jobs in Canada and providing opportunities in Canada "please, please world, exert your influence everywhere else except here". There is no opting out of the modern world. There is no opting out of the future.

We are part of the world, and we have to grow within it. Yet, in the last decade, this country, a country which depends on trade for growth, has been falling behind. While the rest of the world was looking outward, we were looking inward. While other countries reached out to seek new investments and growth, we drove new investments away.

That is now behind us. Those were the policies of the decade behind us. But this country, Canada, paid a price for that. We fell behind and only now are we starting to catch up.

Canada is becoming a stronger nation. Canada is working again. Canadians can be proud of our sophisticated and diversified industrial base. While some 60% of Canadian exports remain resource based, only a small fraction now leaves the country as raw materials.

Canada's economic recovery has been stronger than our trading allies. In the past 15 months, the Canadian economy zoomed ahead at a 6.1 percent rate of annual growth, more than double that of the U.S. More important, Canada's increase in productivity has been five times as great as for the U.S.

That means that Canada is prepared for the world. This nation is prepared for the next century. Since the recovery began, Canada has increased the value of its exports by 40 percent. That is double the increase after any recession since the Korean War.

Let me talk about the opportunities for Canada. If we come to terms with the world, we can secure many of our current jobs. But we will create many more, generating the kind of growth that will allow us successful adjustment and successful transition.