

Canadians are a pragmatic people. We try to see the world as it is, and not through the filters of either marxism or manifest destiny. We have our own experience, at home and internationally, and, increasingly, that pragmatic Canadian experience is drawn upon.

I am proud of what we have been able to do, in foreign policy - but even more enthusiastic about what we can do. We should not exaggerate our influence, nor should we ignore it, nor decline to exercise it. We are a vast country whose only immediate neighbours are three oceans and two superpowers - a diverse society whose people came from every corner, every culture, every colour of the world, and whose interests reach everywhere. We need a foreign policy that reflects the whole Canada - a trading nation, a northern nation, a free nation of people who treasure human rights because close relatives are denied them, a developed economy, a former colony, an international people. Our teachers and traders and missionaries roamed far continents before there was a CIDA, or a CUSO, or a Department of Trade. Our soldiers went away to fight oppression when other countries hunkered down in isolation. Our diplomats and leaders created NATO, invented the peace keeping role of the United Nations, concluded the trade agreement which inspired the GATT, and now, in Brian Mulroney's administration, have found the way to launch La Francophonie, and the determination to bring down barriers to trade.

There is no prouder flag to fly than Canada's, no better passport; yet that reputation was not won by force of arms or power, nor by the purity of our soul, nor by the brilliance of a skilled elite. That unique Canadian reputation reflects the nature and history of this unusual country - it comes from acting abroad as we try to act at home. And we came to office to seize that reality, to extend it, to expand the degree to which our foreign policy reflects our Canadian culture.