

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are a country of some twenty-five million extremely fortunate people, spared the poverty and disease that ravage most of the developing world. We are also free of the deep psychological scars of having had our own community torn by war, as Uganda has been; and the two Koreas, and the two Germanies, and Russia have been; as the old states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, who were "converted" to Marxist-Leninism by external conquest, have been; and as the United States, after Vietnam, had been.

We are the world's eighth-largest trading nation, with the human and physical resources to grow stronger. Our people have an interest in almost every question in the world. As a nation of immigrants, we come from Sri Lanka and Lebanon, from the Punjab or El Salvador, from Zimbabwe and boats bobbing in the China Sea. As a nation of traders and missionaries, we maintain Jesuit schools in Ethiopia and India and Bhutan, we run leper colonies near Yaouande, our salesmen sell computer software to the Japanese and rapid transit systems to the Mexicans; our investors are constructing bull-dozers in Thailand; and our developers are building oil towns in deserts, and irrigation systems almost anywhere there is dry land.