

Three years ago today -- November 21, 1988 -- Canadians sent a clear signal to the world when they elected Brian Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative Party to a second consecutive majority government.

Canada and Canadians were changing. No longer were we content to hover along the 49th parallel making occasional sorties into foreign markets and foreign affairs.

Canadians wanted to be full-fledged players on the international scene -- first, by concluding a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the United States, and second, by increasing our influence and participation in the multi-nation "clubs" of the world through an objective that was loosely called "constructive internationalism."

Although Canada is only in its 125th year, it is one of the world's oldest democracies and has a unique point of view, one we wish to share with the world.

And the world, I must say, has encouraged Canada's participation, Canada's voice.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, my predecessor the Right Honourable Joe Clark, my colleagues, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development, and myself play a part in some of the most influential organizations in the world -- the United Nations, the G-7, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), among many others.

Canada is unique in its capacity to play a role across a large number of multilateral and regional organizations. In part, as a result, we have made valuable contributions to many of the breakthroughs that will surely characterize 1991 as a watershed year of this century.

Prime Minister Mulroney played an instrumental role in the establishment of the United Nations multinational force that quickly neutralized the aggressive actions of Saddam Hussein.

My predecessor, Joe Clark, was unswerving in his quest to end the intolerance and indecency of apartheid in South Africa.

Canadian Ministers for International Trade have been leaders in the battle for trade liberalization through the multilateral/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and through regional and bilateral trade arrangements.

Monique Landry has continued Canada's fine record of humanitarian assistance to the world's neediest nations, and Canada continues