

What was one of the distinctions between our policy and the policy south of the 49th parallel? Their policy was based, in part, upon the ideological character of the countries where the famine occurred. In other words, if a crisis happens to occur in a country where there is a government they don't approve of their aid doesn't go there. Our aid goes where there is trouble.

That is a distinctive Canadian characteristic and a characteristic that we have been able to pursue simultaneously with our pursuit of a trade agreement with the United States.

Look at the United Nations system, a system which is essential to the effective functioning of this world. Take one agency, UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). First of all, everyone agrees that UNESCO was run badly. Two or three years ago, because it was run badly, the United States withdrew; Great Britain withdrew; Canada was under pressure to withdraw. Canada didn't withdraw. We said rather than walking away from a system that is not working as well as it should be, we are going to stay in it. We are going to reform from within.

Again, in one of today's headlines there was an indication that Mr. M'Bow, the former Secretary-General, a man we think was associated with part of the problem, has decided that he is not going to pursue the election for third term. That means reform is possible. We didn't do it alone. But that reform was advanced because Canada stayed and pursued the path of reform from within.

Again, an area of real difference from our friends south of the 49th parallel - an area of distinctive Canadian policy pursued simultaneously with our pursuit of a freer trade arrangement.

Now my point here is not to demonstrate that we differ from the United States. For far too long Canadians pretended we could assert our identity by saying who we weren't. That age is over. What we want to do is assert our identity by saying who we are. We have no need any more of negative nationalism. What we need now is positive, calm, assertive Canadian nationalism that says we are a distinctive nation here in the northern half of North America. We have a different history and a different nature and we have different priorities. Those differences, far from withering with the benefits that come from free trade, are going to grow stronger because the nation will grow stronger.