

I told the United Nations that "I have no doubt that the Charlottetown Agreement reached on August 28 will be accepted by Canadians" because of what is actually in the Agreement.

This is an agreement that will build upon the values and rights that are already a proud part of the Canadian reality.

This is an agreement that will strengthen existing guarantees and protection for the rights of minorities.

This is an agreement that will improve the functioning of our already highly regarded democratic institutions.

This is an agreement that will bring greater social and economic justice to our native peoples.

This is an agreement that will eliminate overlap and duplication and reallocate fundamental roles and responsibilities among levels of government.

This is an agreement that will allow Canada to take advantage of the opportunities of the new global reality -- and to fulfil its obligations.

Earlier this week I spoke to groups of students in Toronto about Canada's role in the world and the importance of the upcoming referendum in ensuring our continued strength domestically and internationally.

Many of these young people wanted to know why they should vote "yes," as if all the reasons I have just outlined were some sort of preamble to something else.

I have come to believe that we take many of our freedoms here in Canada for granted. As Major-General Lewis MacKenzie told an audience here in Toronto earlier this week: "If I could have one wish, it would be to dump the entire population of Canada in Sarajevo for about six hours. Perhaps then they would truly appreciate that this is really the best country in the world and that we are uniquely blessed to be its citizens."

I know that many of you have been to similar places and seen similar situations. We must share that experience with our young people. We cannot allow modern-day sophists to throw away our history, to cast aside our traditions, to negate our influence on world events over the past 125 years.

That is why I spoke up for Canada at the United Nations, and that is why I will continue to speak up for Canada here in Toronto or in Quebec City or in Saskatoon or Dartmouth or wherever Canadians and others have to hear our message.

This is a country that has always said "YES" to each other.

"YES" -- we will help you to clear that field.