

Dear friends of the Group of '78.

I was going through the names of your Group and two thoughts came to my mind.

First, what an extraordinary gathering of concerned Canadians this is, and what a remarkable representation of all the facets of our mosaic: people from all walks of life, writers, businessmen, union members, religious leaders, politicians - yes even politicians, Noble Prize winners, and, I was about to forget, political scientists and international relations specialists.

My second thought was a deep feeling that a common thread united all these names, as it were, and that is compassion, a constant and formidable dedication to the betterment of humanity.

You represent, in a way, the authentic values of Canada, the values which, over time and despite continuously changing circumstances in our troubled world, have earned for Canada respect, recognition and esteem abroad. While the Government and the Group of 78 may not always agree on means - do all 78 even agree among themselves at all times? - we are always unanimous on goals.

In 1981, the Group of 78 addressed a letter to the then Prime Minister suggesting that Canada adopt an integrated approach to its foreign policy. I think it is fair to say that this Government has made great strides towards achieving this goal, which we shared wholeheartedly from the moment we came to power.

Indeed, I cannot but note the close, if not necessarily concerted, link between the action of your group and what has now become the trademark of this Government in the foreign policy realm: constructive internationalism.

Let me give you an example of this: the Group of 78 has always stressed the need to link our efforts to promote peace and disarmament with our