

country into a conflict, which sooner or later, could involve the only child we have left moves me greatly.

However, when I decided to run in politics, I also accepted the challenge of making decisions, decisions that are not always easy to make, that often have important ramifications, but that must first and foremost be absolutely fundamental to the future of our country.

We should remember, that at the end of the last World War, Canada was considered as having a very important national defence. Indeed, the Canadian Navy was the third best in the world with almost 400 ships and three aircraft carriers. Our country was important for its national defense and for world-wide security. However, Canada quickly realized that the two superpowers of the day—the United States and the U.S.S.R.—were becoming more and more important and were depriving lesser countries such as France, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, and others of more and more say in international decision-making.

That is why Canada put so much effort in founding an organization called NATO, and it succeeded through contacts and relations it had with various countries in influencing the charter of that organization. It also helped set up the defence of the North American continent. Canada knew that it was caught anyway in the firing line between two large powers, the United States to the South and the USSR to the North.

During the 1970s, Canada reflected on its situation. Everybody remembers the October missile crisis when on one side Mr. Khrushchev had the option of pushing a button and on the other side Mr. Kennedy had the option to do the same. At that time, Canada realized that in spite of the United Nations Organisation which existed at that time, and in spite of NATO, NORAD and the Commonwealth which existed and to whom it belonged, something was missing.

Smaller countries did not have much influence on these two giants. That was when Canada started to work very hard with European countries, several NATO members and some countries from Eastern Europe to establish an organization called the Commission on Security and Control. This Commission was set up to find security and control measures that would protect the various States from one another, and ensure that no neighbouring country would invade them.

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Canada became renowned within the CSCE, particularly for its work on human rights. Our country firmly and vigorously fought for freedom of movement. We argued that any citizen of one country had the right to move from one country to another without any difficulties or too much red tape. That is what Canada has worked for.

Canada ranks seventh in the world as an economic power while ranking 31st in terms of population. But Canada is fourth in terms of its economic contribution to the UN. Why? Because for 45 years, Canada has been a firm believer in international authority, in an international forum that would be capable of setting landmarks for nations, rules that are acceptable to all democratic nations on this planet so that we can live together on this speck of dust that travels the universe, our planet Earth.

Many of my colleagues spoke of environmental matters. Environment is indeed important. It seems that our climate is warming up and that there are many more problems. The UN should be able to take action and be effective at some point in time. After 45 long years, this day has come.

I felt it was a miracle to see the five countries which had a veto refusing to use it for once. There must not be two blocks any more, the good and the bad, whites and blacks. We have to sit down and work together in a reasonable way to find peaceful solutions. Almost at the same time, a country which had just ended an eight-year-long war with its neighbour, a war that cost nearly one million human lives and during which nearly 40 000 persons were burned and thousands of others were killed by the use of all kinds of toxic gas, decided to attack Kuwait. He moved into that small country. Of course, that country may not have been as democratically advanced as we are, but the process of democratization was under way. It is a country which was moving in the right direction, which wanted to give its citizens more autonomy, more social justice. He invaded that country.

It is a country which had never done any harm to Iraq. But Mr. Hussein, on behalf of his people, decided to invade it. I do not hold a grudge against the Iraqi people because they do not know what is really going on. It has no information whatsoever. Mr. Hussein and his entourage, Iraq's leaders, control the information to their people. If his people knew exactly the ins and outs of the