learned about people that will be in our own best interests -- economic and political.

The North American continent has to be a forge for that effort, drawing again from the values and hopes that brought people by the millions to the New World. Out of idealism, we should become that forge. But we must do so also out of profound self-interest, conscious that the multilateral route is the only way we can reach the sort of security we need in order to deal with our own problems at home.

Currently, economic problems are very much on the minds of political leaders in both Canada and the United States, and also in other Group of Seven (G-7) nations.

Economic Recovery

Putting people to work is an immediate preoccupation, and we ought to know by now that we can't do it by competitive national policies.

We can't be afraid of competition. Canada isn't, which is why we are willing to extend our still young Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement to Mexico, despite some major irritants under the Canada-U.S. Agreement.

But, multilaterally as well as bilaterally, that competition has to be fair. It is time -- maybe the last time -- for leaders of the world's principal traders to agree to that, and to mean what they say.

Canada has been urging that the easing of barriers to trade envisaged by the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations must succeed in a way which is sensitive to the real lives and needs of our people — both as workers and consumers. Our economic security can't be built in a vacuum. That is why Canada aims at measures to strengthen the economies of developing countries as well as our own, and developing countries will be beneficiaries under the Uruguay Round.

This is also why we urge multilateral organizations to turn to questions of political and now even environmental security measures as well as economic.

Recognition of the interdependence -- of countries, and of issues -- is what will provide security and predictability for ourselves.