

I am pleased to be addressing such a distinguished audience at the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry. It is a particular honour because many of you have literally changed the world, and we have much to learn from each other.

Never before has so much depended on our ability to learn new ways to manage these turbulent times.

My good friend, Andrei Kozyrev, exemplifies the need for courage in this new diplomacy -- and believe me, it is a new diplomacy. And all of us need the courage to ensure that the new diplomacy leads to new stability.

We need to be reminded that freedom, democracy and prosperity based on the free market are not easily won; that there are those who fear change. We also need to remember that the world is passing to a new generation. Vaclav Havel, Aung San Suu Kyi, and our own Prime Minister Brian Mulroney have made significant changes to the world -- and no one more than your president Boris Yeltsin.

The images shaping their world are compelling: Yeltsin standing tall on that tank, people dancing on the Berlin Wall, and, sadly, the victims of war in the former Yugoslavia, Karabakh, Tajikistan.

We must work together to comprehend and deal with the contradictory and sometimes brutal reality behind these images.

Russia is a great power with a glorious past, a challenging present and, without doubt, a prosperous future. Historically, Russia has been pivotal in defeating the Nazis, in the United Nations Security Council, as a nuclear superpower. Now, history calls on you to play a new role, not as an adversary but as a friend and partner.

The September 1990 Gorbachev-Bush Summit made history by creating a consensus on co-operation. It enabled the U.S.S.R., and now Russia, to get on with a social and economic transformation.

The complexity of such changes is enormously daunting. Already, people are saying that the costs are too high to bear. But our wish for Russia is that you remain outward-looking and engaged, and confident that there are others who are willing to share your difficult task with you.

Canada is a willing partner in the new structure of constructive multilateralism. It is the only way to deal with current international risks and unpredictabilities.