

The world needs the active participation of a country like Canada - respected, well connected, coming from literally all corners of the world - and a country, whatever the temptation, remains fundamentally committed to the importance of multilateralism in a world like ours.

This is not necessarily an easy age, an easy time for multilateral institutions. It is getting better. There is progress instead of conflict on the arms control front. There is reform in the United Nations rather than people stepping aside. There has been a time - certainly it is evident in trade questions - when the instinct to move together, to act together, has begun to erode. It is very important that countries like Canada, countries who were present at the beginning of the United Nations, present at the beginning of the GATT, present at the beginning of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, remember the stake we have and the influence we have in maintaining that kind of multilateral system.

The interest of every Canadian community, from the largest to the smallest, are directly affected by international questions. Today, for example, we are concerned with the safety of Canadian citizens in Fiji. But we are also concerned with the situation among our farmers, our businessmen and all Canadians affected by international development. We are part of a shrinking world.

It was a Canadian, Marshall McClewan, who invented the phrase, "The Global Village". I think we all marvelled at the wit of the phrase before we understood how directly it impacted upon all of our lives. That is no longer a phrase. That is now an inescapable reality. An inescapable reality which is not a threat to Canada, but rather an opportunity for us to shape the world in a way that accords more exactly with the traditions of tolerance and the traditions of moderation which have been part of this country.