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I was in Thailand in July and had the opportunity at the beginning of my visit there to officiate at the opening of a joint venture between Champion Graders of Ontario and the Thai firm, Italthai. Champion had been selling heavy equipment into the Asian market for years, when the Japanese came along and began to produce and sell similar heavy equipment at a cheaper price. Champion began to lose its markets, but instead of giving up, it fought back and entered into a joint venture with the Thais using Canadian technology and Thai manpower. Now it is exporting to the United States, as well as gradually reclaiming the markets in Asia that had been lost.

That kind of adjustment to new realities is occurring as a matter of the private policy of individual Canadian companies. But one of the realities we cannot escape is that it also has to be reflected in the public policy of governments.

The Arctic is one of our realities. Trade is another. Of the seven industrialized countries who gather in economic summits each year, only Germany depends on exports more than Canada. The US depends less on trade than we do. So does Japan. So does Britain. So do France and Italy. We must trade to grow. That is as much a part of Canada as the Arctic is — and we must see it and seize it as an opportunity.

We are a country unlike any other in the world. Many of our people came here by choice, deliberately leaving lands or regimes that gave them less freedom or opportunity. Our history is the story of making the most of opportunity.

We should learn more about history, and speak of it more. We should recognize that there are Canadian interests and Canadian options that aren't open to others and we express ourselves distinctively when we pursue them.

International affairs is normally a place for caution. But it is also, uniquely, a field where nations speak and act for themselves and reveal their nature by their actions.

We had a choice to make when the United States announced an embargo against Nicaragua, as to whether we would follow American policy or our own. We chose to follow our own.

We had a choice to make as to the role Canada would play in the troubled region of Central America. We chose a distinctive role of making use of the long and valuable tradition of peacekeeping, in which Canadians are steeped, to try to ensure that the Contadora peace process produced more than good will — that it produced an effective mechanism for ensuring peace.

We had a choice to make two weeks ago as to whether we would accept the invitation that the government of Canada participate directly in research in the Strategic Defence Initiative, an initiative over which we would have virtually no control. We decided to decline knowing full well that there would be some implications with our relations with the United States.

We also had a choice to make on the question of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

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