

I began by noting the enthusiasm in Canada for Boston as an international city.

It is interesting to note that one of your most prominent citizens was the son of a high-profile isolationist, a leader in the "America First" movement that preceded the entry of the United States into the Second World War.

And yet, in the years following the war, it was this man, John F. Kennedy, who issued a challenge to the world to expand the rules of trade, and who lent his name to the "Kennedy Round" of the GATT.

It was no coincidence that a man from Boston led the United States to embracing internationalism in trade. Three decades later, we are counting on you, the Bostonians of another generation, to continue to press for engagement and acceptance of the values that more open trading regimes will bring. You were never spectators before; there is too much at stake to be anything but key players again, this time around.

There can be enormous rewards if we succeed: a vibrant North American economy, job growth, and expanded international trade. On the other hand, as you in business know, there is no reward for failure.

Thank you.