

In the next decade, our greatest growth in new trade will not be found in the United States, but in Southeast Asia, if we pay attention to Southeast Asia.

Our political influence in the developing world is strong precisely because we have demonstrated that a democratic Western nation can approach practical problems of development in a way different from the United States and, indeed, different from Britain and different from France.

Our influence in international institutions is precisely because the distinctive Canadian characteristic is to bring opposing sides together, and try to make the system work on a collective basis, as we are doing in UNESCO, as we are doing through the Commonwealth on South Africa, as we are doing with our special trade policy missions to developing countries, to seek practical agreement on the scope of a new MTN, indeed as we are doing in Contadora.

And so, finally, who needs Canada? Let's not overlook the most obvious response: Canadians want and need Canada to be active internationally. We need that, not only to have our interests protected and advanced, but also to have our collective sense of ourselves affirmed and projected. We are what we do, not only at home but abroad, and I intend to ensure that foreign policy of Canada reflects the whole of this modern and outward-looking country.

The question of "Who in the World Needs Canada" is simply another anachronism. In a complex world, it isn't a matter of identifying some hapless country in need of a buddy. Our obligations and opportunities are broader. The hard-pressed international system as a whole needs us, and we need it. Skillful collective inspiration is required in order to keep the system working. If we Canadians are not qualified to help accomplish that task, then I don't know who is.