

My purpose today is to chart the challenge of international trade, the challenge we face together on many fronts -- bilateral, trilateral and multilateral. That challenge shows up daily -- in complex negotiations and complicated trade-offs. But beyond the detail, there is the principle, the principle of partnership in the pursuit of prosperity. To act in accordance with this principle requires leadership, not from bureaucrats or diplomats, but from politicians.

Pressures and risks abound. There is the tug of the short-term over the long-term, the search for unilateral advantage, the rush to take refuge in the status quo and the powerful pressure from those who fear loss, shun opportunity or ignore reality.

But the choice is clear: We either strive together and succeed or set out separately and fail. At stake is the survival of the economic order on which our prosperity -- and our peace -- ultimately depend.

It was by acting together on the basis of fundamental principle that the allied coalition was able to respond so effectively to Saddam Hussein's challenge to international order. We now have the responsibility and opportunity to make that episode a pattern, to maintain that impressive coalition of countries and to build other coalitions, to construct a peace as convincing and clear as the war which was won.

Other challenges to order remain. The causes are different, the symptoms vary, and the solutions will be distinct. But the rhythm of the response must be similar. Many lessons were learned in the Gulf: the power of international consensus and co-operation; the necessity to take risks in the defence of principle; and the paramount importance of leadership, which was exercised with such wisdom by this country and your President in that conflict.

There are two broader lessons. The first relates to the cause we pursued: The defence and construction of an international order where the rule of law is more than a slogan. The value of law does not stop or start with conflict. The habit of co-operation and compromise in the defence of rules in peacetime builds the shared stake in order which makes war less likely.

There is a second lesson from the Gulf war. Marshall McLuhan, a great Canadian thinker, coined the term "the global village." The Gulf war demonstrated that McLuhan's term has become our condition. We are all neighbours in this global village. But this community, like any other, can be one of co-operation or conflict. That choice is ours to make, our achievement to secure.