

climate for change, but individual entrepreneurs make it happen.

To eliminate trade barriers, we are granting the Eastern European countries General Preferential Tariff treatment. We are also doing everything possible to encourage Canadian business to get involved in this vast new market of more than 400 million people. Household names like Bata, Gulf Resources and McDonald's of Canada are already there creating opportunities.

In May, Jake Epp will be in Moscow in conjunction with a major oil and gas show featuring 23 Canadian companies. In June, Michael Wilson will be leading a high-level business delegation to Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

The potential for Canadian business in Eastern Europe seems unlimited as Eastern European economies privatize and become more competitive.

The Political Agenda

I spoke earlier of both the positive and negative forces that were being unleashed by the rapid transformation of Eastern Europe. The Gulf War showed that the world is ready to unite in standing up to despotism and international bullying. We must also unite in facing the challenge of creating a new Europe.

At Stanford University last September, the Prime Minister gave a landmark speech committing Canada to the task of bringing these fledgling democracies into the community of nations. His urgent message is even more relevant today.

We are all neighbours in this undivided Europe where Croatia and Nagorno-Karabakh are only as far away as Newsworld or CNN.

The West must reach out to the countries of the former Soviet empire, not with empty gestures but with full hands. Recent events in Russia have shown us just how fragile the balance is between reform and political chaos, between an open vision of the future and a repressive and regressive wish to return to the past. The current situation is critical and dangerous, and our interests must lie with those reformers who seek prosperity and stability for themselves and for the whole of Eastern Europe.

The fragmentation of the old order and the threat of a power vacuum in Europe can be met only through co-operative security. Canada has been active in pushing for more interventionist approaches, whether in containing the conflict in Yugoslavia or using the resources of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to deliver humanitarian aid.

There are many threats to peace and security in the new Europe, which are in turn threats to our own security. Surges of