

that we are prepared, if necessary, to defend our claims before the International Court, and of course there are risks to that.

But risk is the price of opportunity. If there are risks, there are also opportunities for us in adopting a more self-confident position at home, and by extension, internationally. Perhaps the most dramatic lesson I have learned, in my first year as Secretary of State for External Affairs, is that opportunities are not static. In the North, for instance, if we don't seize the opportunities that are ours now, we could well lose them as others begin to advance their own claims. The insistence on our sovereignty, then, is important both as Canadian self-expression, and as Canadian self-interest.

In Canada's North, we have no ice-breaker that can traverse those waters year round. The vessels we do have are not strong enough to deal with winter ice, and not fast enough to keep up with the Polar Sea. That is a situation which we didn't create and which we won't continue. As other countries develop a capacity to use our waters, to use our North, we have to acquire practical means to occupy what we claim, to exercise what we claim.

The United States and the Federal Republic of Germany are preparing actively now for commercial navigation in northern waters, which is to say in our waters. The Japanese, with a keen eye to the development of oil and gas flows from Northern regions, are developing