

It is not only nuclear weapons, however. Chemical and biological weapons must also be eliminated. And so must plain old guns. Our Prime Minister -- just over a year ago in the midst of the shooting in the Gulf War -- called for better rules regarding conventional weapons. He pointed out that the permanent five had provided most of the weapons being used by Iraq, against us. He called on the U.S. to take strong action. And I'm happy to report that there is now a realistic proposal before the UN to increase transparency in trade in conventional weapons.

In our multilateral world, there is one final area where the need for international responsibility is clear -- the protection of our environment. In the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein introduced a new mechanism for destruction -- "environmental terrorism" -- which, when added to the already mindless or careless acts of destruction to our non-renewable resources, creates an even more pressing challenge to the nations of the world to come together to protect our natural habitat.

Canada's commerce, culture and heritage is closely connected with nature. We are proud that our two countries produced an excellent example of bilateral co-operation when we signed the Acid Rain Treaty. But we must involve more nations in such co-operative efforts.

Initiatives such as Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter, which will be discussed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) meetings in Rio de Janeiro, in June, will provide specific goals and standards of action for signatory nations.

The UNCED meetings will be an important step in the task of healing our planet. But the human energy and processes that come out of Rio must be sustained if we are to avoid permanent and critical damage to our natural environment.

Let me conclude, then, by calling on America to continue its leadership role in looking outward to achieve our common objectives. I have outlined six areas -- economic growth; democratic development; keeping the peace; disarmament upheaval in the Commonwealth states; and the environment -- where our goals will only be met by international co-operation. This does not mean, as Havel Vaclav underlined, seeking common denominators or reducing everything to a single common equation.

It does mean rehabilitating human action and the human spirit. These are the values on which our new world society is based. Both of our countries -- and particularly the U.S. -- must continue to rely on those instincts and build those efforts outward.