

One of them is to help ensure that Europe does not again become what it once was. Another is to help ensure that Europe becomes a positive force for change both at home and around the world.

Our primary interest is the interest in peace. Two world wars this century have taught Canadians that a Europe at peace with itself is a Europe at peace with the world. Security in Canada has no meaning without security in Europe.

Our economic prosperity depends upon a stability in the world. Threats to that stability are threats to our prosperity.

More directly, as a country dependent on trade for 30% of our GNP, the unifying market of Western Europe is vital for jobs and prosperity in Canada, and the vast and untapped markets of Eastern Europe, constitute a long-term opportunity of potentially immense proportions.

Politically, the values which have triumphed in Europe are our values too. We rejoice in their ascendancy and also take comfort in the fact that democracies are inherently more peaceful than the totalitarian alternative. The construction of durable democracies there is not only a moral quest; it is also a security imperative.

Finally, Canadian interests in the new Europe relate not only to what occurs there but also to what is occurring elsewhere. For decades, our preoccupation with a brittle peace in Europe has hindered our ability to deal with mounting global problems - the threat to the global environment, the crises of international development and debt, the evils of the international drug trade and the proliferation of terror and weapons of mass destruction. Many of these problems do not have European origins. But our preoccupation with Europe - ideologically and militarily - has kept these other priorities far too low on the global agenda. With Europe at peace with itself, we can turn together to a planet in need of urgent action.

So we are not interested in Europe for reasons of history, or nostalgia, and certainly not for reasons of charity. It is not only their prosperity which is at stake, it is ours. It is not only their security, it is ours.

While our interests in Europe remain strong, the means by which we pursue those interests must change radically. They must change to reflect the new security framework now in evolution; they must change to reflect the growing power and unity of Western Europe; and they must change to reflect the particular advantages and assets of Canada.

The primary Canadian bridge to Europe has been our contribution to the North Atlantic Alliance. That contribution has involved thousands of Canadian troops on the ground in Germany, troops whose lives have been put on the line daily in the defence of freedom. In a real sense, that contribution of Canadian lives can have no substitute and no parallel.