

We will dedicate ourselves vigorously to ensure that those advantages, in place because of the policies of this government and the hard work and sacrifice of many Canadians, are not wiped out by the kind of economic brinkmanship that has surfaced in the past few weeks.

This trade tension is not a sideshow, but it is also not how I want to end my remarks to you today. I began by describing the international turbulence in which we find ourselves, and went on to point out that there are better prospects because of the new global commitment to multilateral solutions, democracy and market reform.

You, as well as I, can see these things happening and feel their impact. History is taking place on CNN as I speak; commercial markets are determining the wealth of nations and their citizens as we eat our lunch.

In a world where history not only takes place on our television screens, but always seems to take place on fast-forward, foreign policy is no longer a remote preoccupation of a special elite -- it is much more personal and direct. What happens in Kiev and Sarajevo and Mogadishu and Hong Kong and the West Bank affects all Canadians. It affects our family life and our children's attitudes toward other races and cultures. It affects our children's view of their place in the world. It affects our livelihoods, and, most important, it tests our values.

In this kind of world, perseverance and consistency in defending our values, and in expanding our horizons, is more important than ever. Canada is not an economic or military superpower, but on issues of significance -- peacekeeping, arms control, aid to the former Soviet Union, the environment, revitalizing the UN, opening up trade opportunities -- I can assure you that not only does Canada play its part, it also frequently leads the way.

The sweep of history in this decade, the last of this century, needs our resources as individuals and as a country if our prospects are to be realized. I want to assure you that your Foreign Minister, your Prime Minister and your country, will not watch history go by, but will shape it, for all our sakes.