

themselves. Our peoples expect their respective governments to address the real problems that confront them. Our peoples expect their governments to make difficult but necessary choices. I think that they are entitled to expect the leaders of the seven most industrialized countries to adopt the same attitude at their annual meeting.

I have just spoken of "real problems," and this leads me to make a connection with what is currently happening in Quebec. The people of Quebec are aware of the challenges that we must all face, and they rightly expect those who govern them to take concrete action. The Government of Canada is firmly committed to this course. In this regard, the G-7 constitutes an ideal forum where we can discuss the key issues of our time, such as those that I have just mentioned, with other world powers, openly and as equals.

This exceptional asset fully deserves to be emphasized in Quebec's current political situation. In an era of globalization, we cannot ignore the fact that a separate Quebec would deprive itself of all the benefits that it derives from our membership in the G-7. We also cannot overlook the fact that, by ceasing to be part of Canada, Quebecers could no longer make their voices heard on the international scene as they do at present.

The Halifax Summit is thus very significant and something for all of us to think about.

In conclusion, allow me again to thank the organizers of this colloquium. The changes addressed by the speakers are by no means the last that will confront us. In fact, change will probably be occurring with greater frequency than ever before. The lesson drawn from our deliberations should be one of partnership. Thus, the best way to manage change is to confront it together. This is why an exercise such as yours, and the one coming up in Halifax, is of such importance.

Thank you.