

We must not, however, let impatience or frustration divert us from the course of such negotiations. You may detect in my words something of the oriental influence which contributed to my childhood in China. The Chinese philosopher/sage Confucius is reputed to have said, some 2 500 years ago, "The man of Virtue makes the difficulty to be overcome his first business, and success only a subsequent consideration."

Despite the enormous difficulties which lie in the way of effective disarmament agreements, I remain unshaken in my belief, after many years in this field, that Canada has played, and can continue to play, an important role in bringing about the successes we all strive for. We are not a nuclear-weapon state, but we are a partner in an alliance that encompasses a nuclear deterrence policy. We do not have large standing armed forces, nor do we bristle with armaments, but we play an integral part in making NATO and NORAD defences credible; and in both those capacities we have an opportunity to exercise influence on our great and powerful friends. Our technical expertise in vital areas such as verification procedures, so important to the negotiation of effective agreements, is recognized in the various international negotiating bodies.

We are not a superpower, but we are a respected voice in international councils. Our voice is made stronger when we join with like-minded countries, who share our resolve to tackle the difficulties and to conclude disarmament agreements that will work. Our way then is the high road of idealism – the same idealism that motivates all people who desire a disarmed world, but an idealism tempered by a pragmatism that recognizes that that world will only be brought about by painstaking and a serious negotiations.