

Mr. Yeltsin: The first thing we want to do now is re-establish a normal country, with a normal economy and a normal life. Not a super life, but a normal human way of life. Our tragic past has convinced us that one of the highest treasures that any human community can have is a normal way of life.

Russia knows revolution only too well. That is why I say today on behalf of all Russians that Communist revolution is an evil. We have opted for normal evolution. Russia knows arbitrariness and lawlessness all too well. That is why we have chosen a state based on the rule of law. We are more familiar than other peoples with the nightmare of totalitarianism. That is why we have chosen democracy and why we defended it in those days of last August.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Yeltsin: We know better than others what it is like to be everyone's enemy. That is why we have chosen openness and co-operation with the world community. Russia has opted for freedom, and no force can take it away from us.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Yeltsin: "We don't need any more great upheavals. We need a great Russia." These words, spoken a century ago by Russian patriot and reformer Stolypin, have not lost their relevance. On the contrary, they are full of deep, immediate meaning for us. We want our people to raise children and work peacefully. We want them to be governed not by base social instincts or ideological delusions, but by just motives and thoughts. Today, we turn to your rich experience so that we can once and forever say no to all ideological delusions that demand human sacrifices and reject morality.

Borrowing the words of poetess Anna Akhmatova, I pledge to you as President that I will do everything to ensure that Russia never again lapses into the insanity of upheaval.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Yeltsin: Broad new horizons have opened for Russian-Canadian co-operation. Half a century ago, our countries were allies in the anti-Hitler coalition. Today, when I visited the memorial to those who died in the First and Second World Wars and in other conflicts, I thought of the fact that Russia and Canada have never

fought against one another. This is a great achievement. There is a firm conviction today that we are closer to world peace than ever before. Today, when I passed the peace monument being built, it struck me that you have chosen the most appropriate moment possible to build it, when this confidence in peace is at its peak.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Yeltsin: Half a century ago, our countries were allies in the anti-Hitler coalition. Today, we have every reason to speak of a new alliance between us. I am convinced that the need for this alliance has long been felt by those prepared to become direct participants in diverse Russian-Canadian contacts.

• (1130)

Both sides have no shortage of plans for co-operation. It is time we gave them the green light. From this point onward, there are no limits to co-operation between Russia and Canada in world affairs. We can pool our efforts in many different areas in order to strengthen international security, to withstand potential aggressors through collective action, to ensure that all the nations of the world observe the rules of civilized behaviour, including in their behaviour toward their own citizens and national minorities, and to solve global problems.

We applaud your policies of constructive internationalism. We ourselves have already begun to co-operate in working toward the goals identified by the international community. Your country's longstanding commitment to the United Nations organization and to institutions of multilateral diplomacy in general is well known. As is the role played by such outstanding Canadians as Mr. Pearson in working out ways to use the United Nations apparatus in peacekeeping.

This area of United Nations activity and preventive diplomacy aimed at averting conflict could become an ideal domain for applying our joint efforts. The importance of such international mechanisms is regrettably increasing, even in Europe. We have no intention of declaring Russia or any of the states that made up the former union off limits to necessary measures taken by the international community, whether through the United Nations organization or the CSCE. We want peace and calm in our house, in each family. We therefore have a stake in ensuring peace and calm outside it.