

difference of party or of ideology, but of time. The country has matured. The expectations of our citizens have matured. What we can do has matured - to a point where it is now appropriate for Canada to be more assertive, both as to who we are and as to what we can do.

You will know that among the actions on the Arctic announced in the House last week was a decision that we will withdraw a restriction that a previous government had placed on having Canada called before the International Court of Justice with respect to our sovereignty over Arctic waters. That restriction was placed there in 1970, at a time when the Law of the Sea was much less developed than it is now, at a time when Canada's confidence in our claims was not as strong as it is now.

What has happened is not just that there is a new government in office, but that there is a new strength to our claims. Because times have changed, it is possible for us to assert, with certainty and confidence, positions that previous governments had judged they could not.

There are, of course, risks to be run. The External Affairs critic of the official opposition, the Honourable Jean Chretien made the point, quite accurately, in the House that it was both bold and risky for us to assert our sovereignty over Arctic waters. We are saying