

LET ME TURN NOW TO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, FIRST ECONOMIC, THEN POLITICAL.

TOO OFTEN, WE ARE PRE-OCCUPIED BY BREAKDOWNS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM; WE WOULD BE BETTER TO ASK OURSELVES WHY SO MANY INSTITUTIONS AND ALLIANCES, THOUGH BATTERED, CONTINUE TO FUNCTION REASONABLY WELL.

I BELIEVE THE ANSWER LIES IN THE CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OUR DEEPEST POLITICAL VALUES. IT IS OUR POLITICAL VALUES WHICH UNDERLIE OUR COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN NATO, OR OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OR THE COMMONWEALTH. THAT IS TRUE FOR MORE THAN JUST EXPLICITLY POLITICAL OR SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS; ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE GATT, OR THE IMF, ARE JUSTIFIED BY ECONOMIC THEORY, BUT OWE THEIR GENESIS AND SUSTENANCE TO POLITICAL VISION.

THE GREAT STATESMEN OF THE POST-WAR PERIOD FORESAW THE ADVANTAGES OF A STABLE, GLOBAL TRADE AND PAYMENTS SYSTEM AND BUILT THE INSTITUTIONS NECESSARY FOR ITS EMERGENCE. CANADA PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THAT EFFORT, AND FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE ALL ENJOYED THE ENORMOUS BENEFITS OF THAT ORIGINAL VISION.