

Thank you Mr. Speaker:

I am very glad to be here among you today and to have the opportunity to speak before the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. I still remember my last appearance before the Committee, when we were at the beginning of the process to examine Canada's foreign policy.

Since that time, the Special Joint Committee submitted its report, and the Government has responded to its recommendations and issued a Foreign Policy Statement.

If you will allow me, I would like to address five themes today which I believe have a particular interest for the Committee, namely:

- the follow-up to the process of examining Canada's foreign policy;
- the G-7 Summit in Halifax;
- the situation in the former Yugoslavia;
- the situation in Haiti;
- and finally, la Francophonie.

FOREIGN POLICY REVIEW

As part of the Government's commitment to make foreign policy subject to an ongoing review, on February 7 this year, I tabled our Foreign Policy Statement, *Canada in the World*, as well as detailed responses to the recommendations of the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee Reviewing Canada's Foreign Policy.

Canada in the World stresses the importance of Canada's privileged position globally and the opportunities it offers Canadians.

The Statement recognizes that change – economic, political and social – has accelerated since the end of the Cold War and that we must adapt to meet the new challenges posed. At the same time, it emphasizes that our actions are constrained by fiscal limits. The Statement, therefore, establishes three overriding objectives to guide the choices that must be made in this evolving context:

- the promotion of prosperity and employment;
- the protection of our security within a stable global framework; and
- the projection of Canadian values and culture.

I wish to stress that these objectives reinforce each other and are closely interrelated. By strengthening our foreign policy focus at