

I invite you to consider the real differences that exist between Canada and the United States. And if anybody is in any doubt about the differences and the natures of our two countries, I can suggest to some people that you might want to consult.

You could ask Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, whether there is a difference between Canada and the United States. Rajiv Gandhi could tell you about the differences.

You could ask Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, about the differences between Canada and the United States. Prime Minister Mugabe would tell you about the differences.

You could ask Margaret Thatcher about the differences between Canada and the United States. And Margaret Thatcher could tell you the differences.

You could ask François Mitterrand about the differences between Canada and the United States and François Mitterrand could tell you the differences.

We are a country whose distinctive nature is far better known beyond our borders than it is here at home. I think it is time for people who hold public office and public leadership in this country to stop pretending that we are not a nation in our own right. They should start to recognize that there is a distinctive characteristic to this country that is known and respected around the world and it will be far healthier if it is known and respected here at home.

May I conclude on one note and it is a note really about risk. There are risks in any trade agreement. There are risks of course in not pursuing it. But rather than compare the risks between pursuing it and not pursuing it, let me talk about risks in Canadian life.

There would not be a Canada if there had not been people who were prepared to take risks to build something new. I mentioned earlier that one of the differences in the history between Canada and the United States is being that they have consciously cut themselves off from their European and other roots to try to create a new name. I am not saying that negatively, it was very much a part of the excitement of creating a light upon the hill, a beacon to other nations as they call themselves. But we had also people who came here not to cut themselves off, but because there was a greater opportunity here for them. So