

Yesterday afternoon, I returned from a trip to three very different parts of the world -- from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where I visited Prague and Moscow; from Western Europe, where the Prime Minister and I attended the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE) Summit in Paris and, in Rome, approved the Trans-Atlantic Declaration between Canada and the European Economic Community; and from the Middle East, where I held talks with leaders in Ankara, Amman, Tel Aviv and Cairo. In each of those regions there are developments which pose both profound dangers and promising opportunities for international order. In each region, those dangers and opportunities are linked in cause and effect to problems and opportunities elsewhere. In each region, Canadian interests are at stake. And in each region, we are at a moment of truth, of transition.

What is happening there will determine whether 1991 will mark a watershed or a precipice for a world which is changing dramatically. What is happening there will help mould the contours of Canada's prosperity and security. And what is happening there will shape the future of the Canada-Soviet relationship.

In Prague and Moscow, I saw societies in the throes of revolution. Those societies are different and their problems and approaches to them vary. But both are societies which are attempting -- bravely -- to overcome decades of mismanagement and repression, to do in months and years what it has taken other societies decades and centuries to accomplish: the simultaneous construction of an open market and democracy. The change is real and profound. The Soviet Union is trying to deal with several levels of problems simultaneously. A professional observer of both Canada and the U.S.S.R. remarked that Canada's challenges resemble a game of checkers. Theirs is a game of chess.

The CSCE Summit buried the Cold War -- fully, forcefully and forever. That Summit bid farewell to a Europe divided by arms and arguments, a Europe which for decades was a trigger for tensions there and around the world. That Summit ushered in a Europe which is whole, a Europe without walls, a Europe united by the commitment to democracy, human rights, the open market, and a new structure of security which depends on confidence and not fear. And that Summit posed a challenge for the future -- the challenge of building together a Europe which works, a large Europe, from Vladivostock to Vancouver Island, a Europe in which both the Soviet Union and Canada are full partners.

What made that Summit possible was the revolution begun by Mikhail Gorbachev, the revolution transforming Central and Eastern Europe. There would not have been a Paris Summit if the peoples there had not sought and fought for liberation. At one