

## Trade Negotiations and Cultural Industries

industries. We will not be dissuaded, however, from exploring with our biggest and best customer, the benefits and opportunities trade negotiations might have to offer. At a minimum, we need to consider together, through discussions and consultations, what we need to preserve and what we stand to gain. We may have differences in view, but we must all be prepared to exchange views and to explore together what a trade negotiation means.

Exempting cultural industries from the negotiation at the outset will mean that the general benefits that will result from the negotiation in terms of more secure access, better rules and more predictable channels for resolving differences of view will not be available to that industry. I can see little benefit to Canada from such an approach.

On the other hand, enhancement of trade with the United States could strengthen our economic base and provide us with increased means to finance excellence in education, the arts, science and technology, social programs, international development and national defence. That would strengthen our sovereignty and reinforce our sense of pride as a people.

Increased prosperity lets us pursue Canadian social and cultural policies appropriate to our own conceptions, values and needs. That is the essence of sovereignty -- being able to do what we want to do. What limits us today is not our will but our economy. Icebreakers cost money. So do dance troupes and social programs, and the other instruments of sovereignty.

The question of Canadian identity is not new to me. For eight long months, four years ago, I fought and changed a constitutional measure, precisely because I believed it offended the nature of my country. In two public incarnations, I have had the honour to help the Canadian people express our nature in response to foreign crises, once in Ethiopia, once on the Indo-Chinese seas, with acts of generosity and sacrifice. Like my Prime Minister, and many of our colleagues, I came into active politics in response to Mr. Diefenbaker's vision and had the honour, earlier this year, to announce sovereign decisions to strengthen that northern integrity which he proclaimed.

I know something about this country -- its strength, its contradictions, its sense of vulnerability. My own view is that, in recent years, we have become much stronger, as a national community, much more sure of our ability to compete.

The decision to open negotiations with the United States will not weaken our sovereignty or our identity. It is an assertion of sovereignty in an increasingly interdependent world. It demonstrates our confidence that we can be as productive, innovative, ingenious and efficient as our American partners.