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Certainly there is extremism. I understand that. But as Ed Luck said, there is tangible in the United Nations a new spirit of moderation, particularly from some of the developing countries. All you have to do is look at the document "The Declaration on the African Economic Crisis" to see the extent to which the African countries accommodated the interests of the developed world; the extent to which they sought a *rapprochement*.

I say this to you cautiously — I want no one to take offence — but I think that the supporters of the United Nations — even some in this room — are excessively defensive. It is not necessary to be so defensive. It is not necessary to be dragooned into the arguments of the detractors. The arguments are not terrifically persuasive and they are riddled with self-serving sophistry. It is necessary simply to accumulate the defence and to set it out chapter and verse. Don't be intimidated by those who are critics. Don't succumb to the blandishments of vilifiers. The United Nations is a first-rate organization with the simple deficiencies of time and age and circumstance.

So what do you do in a situation like that? You analyze it, you speak to its strengths, and then you go out and advocate its work.

Perhaps all of this is, in a sense, self-centeredly Canadian. I hope not. It's a little easier for Canada — we're a middle power, quite unthreatening as you can see, utterly non-nuclear, and a particular advantage in being bilingual so that we have special access to the francophone world. We have, above all, a lasting and visceral commitment to multilateralism which is ingrained in, and endemic to the Canadian character.

We share this continent with you, the United States; we are good friends, and we hope that we can in the future share as well Canada's more positive view of the United Nations. I've learned as I travelled over the past number of months that it is not hard to convey a more positive view of the United Nations. There's a yearning everywhere amongst people to affirm the validity of the international community and of an international organization. It's important, I think, to stand resilient and passionate in defence of the United Nations.

The Charter may, here and there, be under siege; but it's still an incomparable blueprint for a more just, civilized, humane and tolerant international community. One day we shall achieve it — infidels of all varieties notwithstanding. And so to this audience: the dreamers, the idealists, the pragmatists, the artisans in the vineyards of human betterment, the indefatigable apostles in the cause of peace — to all of you who are tenacious, and unrelenting, I wish you well. I salute you, and I ask you never to be cowed.

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