

Lesson 2. There is little to be gained from isolating countries and ending all contact. Only when there is no practical alternative should such a course be followed. Isolation can be self-fulfilling. Countries without contact are not countries which compromise.

That is why Canada initiated its opening to China in 1971, why we continue to maintain relations with Cuba, why we chose not to impose an embargo on Nicaragua, why we have kept an embassy open in South Africa.

Lesson 3. Unilateralism, while sometimes necessary, is almost always less preferable than multilateral or co-operative approaches. Unilateralism is by definition unpredictable. It often fails or backfires. And while multilateral approaches to problems may be slower and the result less satisfying, the outcome can often be more significant and stable precisely because it is based on consensus.

That is why on issues of trade Canada is such a strong proponent of a strengthened and successful round of the GATT, which would result in new rules observed by all, fairly and fully. That is why at the U.N. Security Council we took the lead in ensuring that the unprecedented international effort to enforce U.N. sanctions against Iraq was conducted with the explicit authorization of the world community. And that is why whether on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan or the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait we have been so forceful in opposing those unilateral acts of aggression.

Lesson 4. International organizations should be made to work. They should not be abandoned, even when their failures are intensely frustrating. Reform is rarely achieved from outside, and often achieved from inside.

That is why we remained in UNESCO, and helped move it toward recovery. That is why we seek to reform the invaluable trans-Atlantic institution of NATO, rather than pretend it became irrelevant when the military threat declined. NATO is an institution which works, and has a critical role in building new relations between East and West, and between Europe and North America.

Lesson 5. Co-operation within regions should complement co-operation between regions.