

reinventing Atlanticism – questions that will demand thoughtful study and thoughtful answers in the months ahead.

What is becoming clear is that we need a context – a forum – within which we can begin to give expression to our common desire to move the transatlantic relationship forward. We should consider forming a transatlantic Eminent Persons Group largely or exclusively from the private sector to begin to develop a more detailed road map for the way forward. In Germany, Canada, Britain and the United States – to name but a few – there are already national groups at work exploring how the increasing momentum toward transatlantic free trade can best be channelled. An Atlantic Eminent Persons Group might begin to examine trends in trade and investment flows across the ocean – the outlook, say, for the medium term to the year 2000. The group could also identify tariff and non-tariff constraints that should be addressed by governments. And it should broadly identify priorities for future trade negotiations, including examining the gaps between existing structures or agreements. Such a grouping might report by June 1996 to a meeting of ministers or leaders representing Europe and North America – an Atlantic Summit – so that we can begin to discuss these issues around the same table.

If the Cold War era was shaped by a world divided, the new global order will be shaped by a world converging, oftentimes at a dizzying pace. This poses its own challenges as well as opportunities. The diffusion of economic power, the rise of Asia, the advent of great regional blocs – all are manifestations of a global system in which we are at once more interdependent and less cohesive. In this sense, the challenge we face in the post-Cold War era is not unlike the challenge that has confronted the international system in the wake of all great upheavals: how to create a sense of collective purpose – a unifying vision – in the absence of a unifying threat? After the Napoleonic wars, it was the Concert of Europe; after the Great War, the ill-fated League of Nations; after the Second World War, Bretton Woods and the United Nations system. What is to be the new architecture in the aftermath of the Cold War? Where is the glue?

Last year, when Prime Minister Chrétien and I spoke about building an economic bridge between Europe and North America, the idea was treated as almost whimsical – at best a distraction from more pressing interests in Asia and Latin America, at worst a romantic echo of a bygone era. Today I can scarcely read the international press without finding some article or commentary on the transatlantic link. Perhaps this is because the transatlantic relationship is perceived, if only intuitively, as a cornerstone – and a foreshadowing – of relations in the broader global order. We are a set of countries that must ultimately stand together, must work together, must continuously reinforce our shared global interests. To the extent that technological change is altering the foundation of our post-war relationship