

We had a choice to make two weeks ago as to whether we would accept the invitation that the Government of Canada participate directly in research in the Strategic Defence Initiative, an initiative over which we would have virtually no control. We decided to decline knowing full well that there would be some implications with our relations with the United States.

We also had a choice to make on the question of UNESCO. That United Nations agency, it is fair to say, has strayed widely off track. So much so, in fact, that it led to governments like those of Singapore, Great Britain, and the United States serving notice that they were going to leave that agency. We decided that it was in our interest to use our influence from within, to reform UNESCO, and to bring it back on course.

We had a choice in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, where there is a disagreement between developed and developing countries as to what should be discussed when the world comes together to set international rules on trade. We are one of the world's developed countries, but with unique lines open to developing countries, so we have chosen to seek common ground between the two sides. A Canadian delegation will be visiting countries in Asia and Latin America in October, trying to get agreement on an agenda that might move the world forward.