

We trade with every nation here. We draw upon your culture and your history and your art, and increasingly, enrich yours with our own. As a strong nation in a young continent, our Canadian people come from everywhere, but particularly from Europe. One in seven Canadians has family origins in Eastern Europe - and for those millions of Canadians, questions of human rights, of the right to move freely, of the reunification of families, are intensely personal questions, which affect not statistics, but uncles and aunts and sisters and mothers and brothers and fathers and children.

The human web between Canada and Europe is pervasive. Of my colleagues in the Canadian Cabinet, one was born in Czechoslovakia, one in Germany, another is the grandson of Russian émigrés. Danylo Shumuk, a prisoner until February in Soviet confinement, is awaited by his relatives in the province of British Columbia. Europeans, who left their homelands in hope or flight, have built the solid basis of schools and businesses and communities from our Atlantic to our Pacific, and to our Arctic oceans. Every language spoken in every country represented here is also spoken in Canada. When the earth trembles near Naples, disaster strikes at Chernobyl, a mountain slides in Sicily, or a terrorist bomb explodes anywhere in Europe, Canadians are involved directly, personally. And the issues which divide Europe are our issues - our values, our safety, our families, in both the generic and the particular sense.

It is therefore clear to us that Europe, and the world, can only be a safe place when tensions and conflicts are managed, when the will exists to address fundamental problems and promote practical solutions. Canada has therefore worked for years to establish a significant role in arms control forums. We contributed to the concept of the peacekeeping force, and Canadian troops have served in that capacity in Asia, in Africa, in the Mediterranean and throughout the Middle East. We defend the United Nations. We seek to reduce the causes and restrain the course of regional conflicts. We believe the pursuit of peace cannot be the exclusive preserve of the superpowers. If we are to move to a more cooperative and less confrontational relationship, all of us must do all we can to stimulate dialogue, pursue contacts, and promote cooperation between all countries and at all levels. Without surrendering our deeply held convictions, we must exercise restraint and encourage mutual recognition of each other's legitimate needs and interests.