

Two bloody wars this century have taught Canadians that security at home is meaningless without security in Europe.

Around the world, regional conflicts and problems have gone unattended - or in fact have been exacerbated - because of the tensions which have enveloped Europe.

And our economic prosperity is tied to a prosperous and free Europe, whose 320 million citizens in the West will form, in 1992, the largest single market in the world, and whose economies to the East form a vast, untapped market of great potential.

So it is in our interest that the brave peoples of the East succeed. It is not simply in their interest. It is our peace, not only their peace. It is our prosperity, not only their prosperity.

What sort of Europe does Canada seek?

- A new Europe which is free, governed by the principles of self-determination and non-interference.
- A new Europe which is democratic in its politics and committed to an open market in its economics.
- A new Europe which is imbued by a universal respect for the rights of the individual, for it is on this that democracy finally depends.
- A new Europe which is based on mutual security, where military forces are reduced to the minimum level required for security.

And, finally, we seek a new Europe which is an open Europe. A wall dividing Europe cannot be supplanted by a wall around Europe.

What is Canada's role in this? Our role is as one of the leading democracies of the West and one of the strongest economies in the world. We have a direct stake in the stable evolution of Europe.

We have unique characteristics to apply. Our own experience with federalism, and with the challenge respecting different cultures, has created special expertise and insight. We are a country with a strong economy, whose strength in a variety of sectors - telecommunications, transportation, the resource sector and management training - is worldclass.

Let me emphasize the multicultural reality. Often we describe that as simply a cultural or social advantage to Canada. It is also a business asset and a political asset. One in ten Canadians is of Soviet or East European heritage. These Canadians know the languages of Eastern Europe, understand the customs, and are familiar with the societies so foreign to much of the rest of the world.

That familiarity is a business advantage and something Canada can contribute to the East.