

What was one of the distinctions between our policy and the policy south of the 49th parallel? Their policy was based, in part, upon the ideological character of the countries where the famine occurred. In other words, if crises happen to occur in a country where there is a government they don't approve of their aid might not go there. Our aid goes where there is trouble. That is a distinctive Canadian characteristic and it is a characteristic that we have been able to pursue simultaneously with the pursuit of a trade agreement with the United States.

Look at the United Nations system, a system which is essential to the effective functioning of this world. Just take one agency, UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). First of all, everyone who knows anything about UNESCO knows that it has been run very badly. Two or three years ago, because it was run badly, the United States withdrew; Great Britain withdrew; Canada was under pressure to withdraw. Mr. Mulroney and I took that decision that we wouldn't withdraw. We said rather than walking away from a system that is not working as well as we want it to, we are going to stay in it. We are going to try to reform from within.

Now, the other day, an election was held in UNESCO and there is a new Secretary General and we believe that because of that change of the Secretary General there is a real chance for reform, a real chance to make the most of that United Nations organization. We didn't do it alone, we had an important part to play, and we played it. Again an example of real difference from our friends south of the 49th parallel - an area of distinctive policy that was pursued simultaneously with our pursuit of a freer trade agreement with the United States.

Now my point here is not to demonstrate that we differ from the United States. For far too long Canadians pretended we could assert our identity by saying who we weren't. That age is over. What we want to do is assert our identity by saying who we are. We have no need any more of negative nationalism. What we need is positive, calm, assertive Canadian nationalism that says that we are a distinctive nation here in the northern half of North America. We have a different history and a different nature and we have different priorities. Those differences, far from withering with the benefits that come from free trade, are going to grow stronger because the nation will grow stronger.