

different. Depending on the region, our economy runs the full gamut of sectors: agriculture and fisheries, resource extraction and processing, heavy industries, services, and the newest high technologies. Given the tremendous diversity within Canada -- cultural, linguistic, regional and economic -- it has been absolutely critical for us to pull together as a nation. That has shaped our foreign policy in a number of ways.

First, the political tolerance and flexibility we have had to apply at home translates abroad into diplomatic pragmatism and a strong commitment to human rights. Second, our long experience with nation-building at home has made us very sensitive both to the demands and opportunities of coalition-building abroad. Canada is itself a kind of cultural and regional coalition, and coalition-building has become a hallmark of Canadian foreign policy.

Third, the structural complexity and export orientation of our economy makes Canada a world trader. We are heavily dependent on our exports for national prosperity, and this means that we are very vulnerable to dislocations in the global trade and payments system.

I believe you can see in this some parallels between Canada and India. India has achieved nationhood out of a dramatic diversity. India, like Canada, understands the critical importance of key multilateral institutions, and the imperative of coalition diplomacy. Canada has developed a range of affiliations remarkable for a country our size -- the Economic Summit, the G-7 and Trade Quadrilateral mechanisms of the leading industrial and financial countries, the OECD, the broad range of UN agencies, NATO, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, regional development banks, and support of several regional associations. Among these latter, I would mention the Association of South East Asian Nations and reiterate that Canada looks forward to establishing a productive dialogue with the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation and to identify ways in which we can support the objectives of that Association.

India, for your part, has emerged as a leading spokesman for the Third World, and more broadly as a major political entity and trading nation in your own right. You have played a highly significant role in the Non-Aligned Movement. Vigorous Indian participation in the UN system and the Commonwealth has led to intensive Indo-Canadian diplomatic work across a range of issues. At times we have sought to hammer out a consensus on issues where our perspectives may differ. At other times, we have worked in the closest cooperation toward a common goal. In either case, we have