

-- Our economic system also reflects this. We have a mixed economy in which both private and public companies exist side by side. We have established the Foreign Investment Review Agency which examines proposals for new foreign investment or foreign acquisition of existing Canadian firms to ensure that the investment or acquisition can be shown to be of significant benefit to Canada. We are now trying to channel foreign investment so as to derive the greatest benefit from it. We have established the Foreign Investment Review Agency which allows new foreign investment or foreign acquisition of existing Canadian firms only where the investment or acquisition can be shown to be of significant benefit to Canada.

-- We have been inspired by European examples in drawing up our extensive social welfare system and have pioneered some schemes of our own. I must add that I have been impressed by what I have heard of the way in which the Brazilian government has used its pension fund to build housing for the less fortunate.

-- We have drawn on both European and American examples in the extensive assistance we give to both education and culture.

While we have greatly benefitted from the diversity of influences available to us, we have been only able to draw on these sources and maintain the country open to the winds of change that are sweeping the planet, because of our commitment to the principles of an open society. Our deeply rooted respect for democratic freedoms and human rights has also been for us a means of dealing most effectively with the linguistic, cultural, regional and social differences within Canada. I would be less than frank with you if I did not admit that it has not always been easy for us to maintain these principles. We have suffered from the stresses and strains that have arisen from the accelerated pace of history in our time. Nevertheless, we are firmly of the belief that the open society, with all the risks that it entails, is in the long run the only way of successfully achieving change in stability, as well as unity and prosperity.

We now have in power in one of our provinces, Quebec, a government that advocates its separation from the rest of Canada. As a member of the Government of Canada, I want to assure you we are confident the country will remain together. Canada has been in existence now as a confederation for over 100 years, and this is not the first threat we have faced. Canada has a genius for compromise in the best sense of the word. For this reason, I am certain that this most recent threat to Confederation will be resolved as well.