

I believe that this is progress that we ought to be proud of. We obviously place great importance on a number of issues, including the environment.

I was pleased to participate earlier this week in a symposium on the theme of trade and the environment. We in Canada have felt it is important, as you know, that each free trade agreement be accompanied by an agreement on the environment. We did so in Chile. We also have an agreement on labour standards, and I honestly believe that we can make progress in all these areas.

But I really appreciate the responsible and constructive dialogue we're having. I was moved last night — and I'll conclude on this point because I don't want to take up too much time — at the opening ceremonies of this Quebec Summit to hear the leaders of government speak with such emotion — particularly when you know the history of the countries they represent — of this immediate and direct link between democracy, respect for human rights, economic prosperity, and the place of trade in all of that.

When you know what some of those countries have experienced, when we're told that an open economy is the best guarantee of an open political system and that an open political system is also a great contribution to an open economy, I feel that we've made great progress in the hemisphere and that we need to do so in a constructive and responsible way.

I thank you very much for your attention.

