

We are a country whose distinctive nature is far better known beyond our borders than it is at home. I think it is time for people who hold public office and public leadership in this country to stop pretending that we are not a nation in our own right. They should start to recognize that there is a distinctive characteristic to this country that is known and respected around the world and it will be far healthier if it is known and respected here at home.

One of the things that will allow us to do this is to proceed with far more confidence into the kind of trading arrangements we simply have to enter into with the United States and with the world.

One of the things that strikes me as a result of all of the discussions I have had about the trading arrangement with the United States is that Canadians who are actually out competing - businessmen who are looking for markets; entrepreneurs who are looking for opportunities - they are not afraid of the United States. The people who are afraid are the people who have never tried. That is true of a lot in life.

The fact is that, in almost any field, this country has nothing to be afraid of. This is not a second-class country. We had a little trouble in hockey for a while but we are beating the Soviets again.

What we can do in sport we have done in science; we are doing in the arts; we can do in business; we can do in field after field. We should stop selling this country short. We should recognize that this is a first-class, world-class country that can take on the competition and it can prevail.

One last point - I want to make the point about the nature of risk in the creation of this country Canada. I indicated earlier that we did not start with revolution. But we did start with a series of individual decisions by individual people who could have stayed in the land and cultures they came from where it might have been more comfortable, although there would have been much less opportunities.

Instead, they left the comfort of what they knew and were prepared to embark upon great adventures.