

We are a country unlike any other in the world. Many of our people came here by choice, deliberately leaving lands or regimes that gave them less freedom or opportunity. Our history is the story of making the most of opportunity.

We should learn more about history, and speak of it more. We should recognize that there are Canadian interests and Canadian options that aren't open to others and we express ourselves distinctively when we pursue them.

International affairs is normally a place for caution. But it is also, uniquely, a field where nations speak and act for themselves and reveal their nature by their actions.

We had a choice to make when the United States announced an embargo against Nicaragua, as to whether we would follow American policy or our own. We chose to follow our own.

We had a choice to make as to the role Canada would play in the troubled region of Central America. We chose a distinctive role of making use of the long and valuable tradition of peacekeeping, in which Canadians are steeped, to try to ensure that the Contadora peace process produced more than good will - that it produced an effective mechanism for ensuring peace.