

in its recognition that global terrorism is a threat to all, the world community spoke with a single and compelling voice.

Democratic countries, by our nature, encourage differences and dissent. Sometimes that dissent can challenge the very integrity of the country. Canada has faced such challenges in the past, as have you. The issue for democratic governments is not the existence of such problems, but our response to them. For Canadians, the due process of national law and sovereignty must be respected. The democratic rights of citizens must be respected. But so too must a line be firmly drawn when peaceful dissent becomes violent confrontation. I have no quarrel with those in Canada who hold different views than the government of India, or the government of Punjab, or, for that matter, the government of Canada. I am, however, saying to those who advocate or practise violence that Canada and Canadians will not tolerate that kind of attack upon the basic rules of our democracy.

In my meetings with the senior members of your government, I have discussed such co-operation and have made clear that the Canadian government will meet its responsibilities to the maximum permitted by our laws and customs. We want to ensure that the violent activities of a few do not threaten the co-operation and the friendship that the vast majorities of both our countries seek.

I cannot help remarking on the sense of purpose and confidence which are so much a part of your national life today. Your Prime Minister and government have impressed the world with your sense of purpose as well as your courageous efforts to contribute to positive solutions to problems beyond your borders. These are the hallmarks of a great country. They explain part of our interest in working closely with you.

We are a North American country with good friends on that continent. But Canada is also a country of the world, aware of our tradition as a mediator, proud of our capacity to heal differences, strong in our moderation. India has its own traditions. As dusk fell Monday, my colleagues and I visited the Ashram in Ahmadabad where so much of that tradition took form. Our countries have common purposes and my government wants to maintain the best possible relationship with yours. We want to strengthen the already strong ties between us. From what I have seen and heard, I am confident that commitment is shared in India.