

The alternative involves translating their values and their objectives into institutions that will promote their interests long into the future. The great victory over Soviet communism is due, in my opinion, to the depth of our liberty and the institutions and values that have permitted us to build a society where both economic and social development are inherent parts of the cultural fabric.

Conclusion

This is our shared project at the dawn of the 21st century. I am convinced that we are entering into a new civilization. I believe that it will be a post-modern civilization. I want liberals to be at the heart of it as much as we have been at the heart of modernity. Our duty is to ensure an emphasis on the reconciliation of the spirit and ethics of liberalism, that is to say, between confidence and conscience. Liberals have a perspective that can help us respect the values of north and south, of the privileged and the less privileged. We must always remind ourselves that the whole purpose of the exercise is to allow people to fulfil their ambitions and to foster happiness.

It is a great privilege to share my convictions with you. To those who tell me "Minister, you dream in colour; it is impossible to reconcile ethics and the spirit of liberalism; it is too late," I say "NO." Not only is it not unthinkable, actually it is inevitable; inevitable because when conscience dissipates, confidence collapses. Reconciling the two is the political task of our generation.

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