

I want to speak today of the intimate and essential connection that exists between domestic priorities and international policy.

The priority of a national government in this country at this time has to be to encourage jobs and economic growth. But the purpose of a national government in a country like ours, at any time, is to express the spirit and the nature of the country in contemporary terms.

A nation is more than its gross national product. Economic policy and economic accomplishment are essential, but so also is it essential to have a sense of the goals and purposes which make us distinctive and make us strong. I approach my remarks today in that spirit.

The election of a year ago was an expression both of what people wanted and what people rejected. There was an overwhelming positive desire, on the part of Canadians everywhere, for policies of national reconciliation, to bring an end to a decade or more of fruitless division among the various governments and regions of the country.