

the threat they represent has become one of our major security priorities. The Extradition Treaty which External Affairs Minister Tiwari and I signed yesterday exemplifies joint Indo-Canadian determination to fight terrorism.

People who commit serious crimes should not be able to escape punishment through gaps in the law. Canada has extradition treaties and arrangements in place with more than 40 countries, and we are negotiating others. India became an exception by accident. The Canadian Fugitive Offenders Act established extradition arrangements with countries when the Queen is head of state, and no longer applied to India when she became a republic. That created the anomaly that India could become a haven for criminals from Canada, and Canada a haven for criminals from India. Particularly, in an age marred by terrorism, that was a gap we wanted to close. As with all extradition arrangements, there are rights of appeal to our supreme court, protections under our charter of rights, and the provisions that extradition can only occur respecting actions that are serious crimes in both countries. This treaty tightens the rule and reach of the law.

I hope my comments to you today have provided some notion of how much we really have in common, and how much we jointly have at stake, as diplomatic partners. Part of this commonality flows from our dependence on multilateral institutions and on coalitions. Part of it flows from Canada's increasing interests and involvement in the Asia-Pacific region. "Partnership", if we are serious about it, means an across-the-board relationship. It means strengthened economic links, but also political and security consultations.

I think this makes eminent good sense for our two countries. There is a singular opportunity here in the intersecting of our interests and capacities. I want us to make the most of that opportunity.