

election should be interpreted as an overwhelming demand by Canadians for an end to both an era of conflict and a style of Government. It is also in my view, very much an assertion of Canadian confidence, a signal that Canadians have had enough of looking inward and that we are now reaching out to compete in the world and to accept our role in the wider international community.

The Mulroney Government is now embarked on the task of setting the agenda which Canadians indicated they wanted, an agenda of new directions for Canada. We want to restore Canada as a dynamic force in the international community - we want to put our economy firmly on the road to economic renewal. We are committed to creating wealth and growth and jobs. It is a vital task for the well-being of Canada; but it will not be an easy task.

Our new Government inherited a deficit that was even larger than the deficit that had been forecasted before the vote - the size of our debt load makes reducing our debt and particularly getting our deficit down almost impossible. Furthermore, we came to office with close to 1 1/2 million Canadians out of work.

Prime Minister Mulroney has set these 2 issues as his priorities - creating jobs that will last for Canadians and getting our deficit down. We have embarked on the most open and extensive process of policy consultation in the nation's history. The Prime Minister and provincial Premiers have begun meetings to bring coherence to Canadian economic policy so the first budget of our national new Government when it comes down in the spring will not reflect simply the concerns of one level of Government but can reflect instead agreed priorities of all of the partners in the Canadian Federation. I should simply say in passing how pleased I am today that present at the head table when I am speaking as a Minister of the Federal Government of Canada is the Hon. Don Phillips who is a Minister of a Provincial Government of Canada. I think that that is a quiet symbol of the kind of cooperation that we are finding encouraging in Canada among governments which, while we might have different areas of jurisdiction, have a common Canadian people whom we serve and a common set of goals making the country work. The presence of Mr. Phillips is only one of several changes in the relations between our federal and provincial government that we have seen in recent days. I won't detain you with it but I think it important to make the point that last week in a conference sponsored by the Government of Quebec to discuss the role of Quebec in the world, federal government representatives, including cabinet ministers, were present at the table because we were interested