

I asked: "How did you know that?" And he told me that, during his long years in a Soviet prison, his relatives in Canada told him of the opportunities that were open in this free country to the Hnatyshyns' and the Paproskis' and the Mazankowskis'. The contrast was clear. In the Soviet Union, if you were proud of your heritage, like Danylo Shumuk, you went to jail. In Canada, if you were proud of your heritage, like Don Mazankowski, you can become the Deputy Prime Minister of the country. There is a rare quality of freedom in this country, that we have to protect at home, and extend abroad.

At home, we have to work at freedom and equality. We have to recognize that tolerance is the trademark of this free society, and that we guarantee our own rights and traditions by respecting the rights and traditions of others. We are an easy country to divide. One could turn region against region, culture against culture, race against race. Yet the success of Canada - what makes us unique in the world - is that we rise above those divisions, to create a nation in which all our differences are seen as strengths. And the more we succeed in that, the better example we set for the world.

Let me speak for a moment, as your Foreign Minister, of what we can do in the world. First, let me note two changes that give Canada even greater influence if we continue to follow a strong and active foreign policy.

The first change is economic. The world economy is being transformed. The countries of Europe, fierce enemies through centuries, have created a Common Market in which all internal barriers to trade will be gone by 1992. In Asian, Japan casts a wider influence on the world, and modern young economies in Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong become more competitive every day. Think of what will happen when massive countries like India and China become as competitive as Korea and Japan. In North America, Canada has negotiated a Free Trade Agreement with the United States, so that we will have the same market advantages as Europe and Asia, with whom we must compete. This new economic reality holds great opportunities for Canada, because we are so rich, so innovative, so competitive. If we reach out to these opportunities, nothing can stop Canada.

And that economic change is forcing a political change - particularly in the Soviet Union. Part of what is driving Mr. Gorbachev is the undeniable evidence that the Soviet economic system doesn't work. That and other factors have led to a change in the relation between the superpowers. Nothing basic has changed. One system is free and the other is not. But there is now a wider range of practical questions on which we can get agreement - from visitor visas, to the environment, to progress on banning chemical weapons.