

So one of the advantages that has occurred, one of the accomplishments of this agreement, is that there has been a turning in the tide of protectionism in the world.

A second reason is that whether we like it or not, we now live in a world with an interdependent, global economy. And no two economies are more interdependent than Canada and the United States. This agreement did not create that reality. That has been the reality for years and indeed former governments have regularly tried to change that reality and failed.

I remember the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, in 1957-58, travelling the country and promising that one of the first things he would do, would be to try to divert 25 percent of Canada's trade from the U.S. to the United Kingdom. He meant that, he tried it, he couldn't do it.

I remember in the 60's, Prime Minister Trudeau introducing the so-called Third Option, in which there was a deliberate effort made to divert trade from the United States to Europe. They tried it, they were serious about it, they couldn't do it.

Indeed, what happened after Mr. Diefenbaker's initiative, our trade with the United States increased proportionally. What happened after Mr. Trudeau's initiative, the proportion of our trade with the United States increased as it had regularly.

There are simple realities of geography that are inescapable, they are there. And we have to come to terms with them again. Those are something we can't wish away.

So the agreement didn't create that interrelation, that reality was there before the agreement. What the agreement can do is recognize that it is in the interest of Canada and it is in the interest of the United States to have this major economic relationship - the challenge for us is to recognize that that kind of interdependence, which is simply an inescapable part of Canadian life, that sort of interdependence requires cooperation, rather than confrontation, if we are going to avoid acts and developments which wound both countries.