

In March, I attended the Environmental Summit in the Hague. That summit issued a declaration that added further priority to the global environment as a policy issue and further impetus to innovative institutional cooperation. More particularly, the summit participants agreed to develop, within the U.N., a new institutional authority to combat global warming. They also agreed to promote compliance with the authority's decisions. Flora Lewis of the New York Times wrote then: "The environment is being recognized as a global issue. These are profound shifts in the perceptions of the world coming unevenly in spasmodic bursts, but with a momentum reaching the stage of destiny."

The future environmental agenda is very full. We look forward, especially to the 20th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, where the world will take stock of progress since 1972 and chart a collective course for the future.

For us, the Arctic will be a particular focus of interest. We plan to work with the other circumpolar countries, including Norway and the United States, in acquitting our common responsibility for the region's fragile ecosystem. I anticipate signing an Arctic and Northern exchanges agreement with the Soviet Union when I visit Moscow in the fall.

Shortly, Canada's National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy will hold its first meeting. The Roundtable will bring together highly qualified Canadians to consider ways to integrate environmental and economic decision-making in Canadian society. The work of this new organization will help us re-think how we make decisions, personally and professionally, that affect our common environment.

If we are to preserve our environment, we need, as Einstein observed in a related context, to change our ways of thinking.

The environment is our destiny. What is needed is a new environmental ethic. We need to value our environment as we value life itself.

We will know that an environmental ethic is accepted when a company's environmental policy statement is as integral to its yearly report as its financial statement. We will know that an environmental ethic is established when industry leads government in the protection of the environment.

I challenge the business leaders here, today, to take the lead, go beyond the letter of the law, fix what ain't