

H & K Communications

72 Elvaston Avenue
Nepean, Ontario
K2G 3X9

Phone: (613) 829-1800
Fax: (613) 829-2449
E-mail: hturkow@rogers.com

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PM HARPER REMARKS AT EXTENDED MEETING

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RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER (Prime Minister of Canada): Well thank you, thank you for your welcome Mr. President and I have many fond memories, not just of your visit to Canada but of our encounters elsewhere, in Davos and elsewhere. And every time we speak I find it very thought provoking. We always appreciate the breadth of your wisdom and experience and knowledge.

You mentioned at the outset a little bit about the history here. One part of the history, as you noted, that we share is the role of the French and British to, and other countries of Canada, but that's pretty much the limit of the history we share in that Canada is the polar opposite of Israel in that we have much geography, but very little history. However in that brief history, we discovered and discovered early that given a mixture of cultures and languages and religions that we make much more progress through accommodation than through fighting; obviously an easier lesson to learn, in fact, I think when you lack history.

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You're observations on the modern world are fascinating. We're obviously replete with challenges including probably the biggest ones in the world that are around here, and we would agree with your general observation that the future for the success of humanity is the knowledge economy. Technology can of course be used for good or for evil, but those nations that have embraced the knowledge economy are generally those the ones that have made the most progress and there's no greater and more successful example of that than Israel. And there's no area where we could probably do better as a country, as Canadians, than figuring out how we are going to be central in the knowledge economy in a way and at a level we haven't yet reached.

So these and many of the other subjects that you raised I look forward to discussing and thank you once again for the opportunity to be here and the opportunity to exchange with you at length once again.

366 words

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