

Rideau Club

March 17, 2010
Outline/TPs
Paul Heinbecker

It's Not the Size of the Dog in the Fight; It's the Size of the Fight in the Dog
Mark Twain, General Eisenhower, others

Overview

1. The Grounds for Optimism
2. The Need for Realism
3. The Case for Vision, Ambition and Leadership

The Case for Optimism

- Pessimism more compelling than optimism
 - Pearson
 - News cycle
- But optimism a better basis for policy
 - Ancestors
 - 1839 Durham
 - Nazis
 - Red
 - RIM
 - FS exam
- Size of the Dog-- Labrador
 - Economy 11th
 - banking 1st WEF
 - Per capita 8th
 - Military 13th
 - Population 32nd
 - Education
 - 2nd in world for tertiary level
 - Universities 11/200 3/50 tied for 3rd
 - Cdn 15 year-olds (PISA)
 - Math 7th
 - Reading 4th
 - Science 3rd
 - Health and longevity
 - UNDP/HDI 4th
 - Natural resources
 - Oil, gas, uranium and water

- The arts
- The diasporas
- English and French
- Mature democratic institutions
- Soft Power
 - 90% Americans Gallup
 - 86-75% Other, slipping
- Proximity to the US

- Changing World--Dylan
 - Power is zero sum
 - China (2nd), Jpn(3rd) India (4th) GDP/PPP
 - Mahbubani
 - But Collier
 - US bent, not broken
 - Capacity versus power
 - Science
 - Universities (13/20 58/200)
 - China (6/200 11 with HK)
 - Nobels 320 9/2009
 - Military US>15
 - Governance weaknesses
 - Economy/The Great Recession
 - Resilience (Kennedy-decline)
 - Under new management ??

The Need for Realism

- The Harper Government
 - Canada back as a credible player on the international stage".
 - Ironically, four years of Conservative government later and there has been plenty of rhetoric and posturing, but the results have been meager. And international leadership has been more proclaimed than exercised. A lot has been said but little has been done.
 - FP a work in progress
 - Inexperienced
 - Ideological
 - Churn at top
 - Light switch diplomacy
 - Incoherent spending
 - Some signs of life
 - Food aid
 - Arctic
 - Lat Am, but Africa?

- Softwood/Buy America/
- Free Trade Colombia/Peru/EFTA/EU
- G8
 - ACD
 - Maternal health—but social conservatives
- Afghanistan
- Communications over substance
- Trudeau on his head
 - Special interests
 - UNESCO
 - Israel
 - Wedge Issues
 - Muslims—courts
 - UN
 - Climate change
- Canada Among Nations
 - Asians
 - “short-sighted and out-of-date.”
 - “Spain or Poland”
 - “the next Argentina?”
 - Africans
 - “there is a noticeable general lessening of Canada’s visibility in the global arena.”
 - Latins
 - Hallucination
 - Mexico

The Case for Vision, Ambition and Leadership

- King taken for granted
- Pearson constructive internationalism
- Trudeau North-South
- Mulroney Influencing others
- Chrétien/Axworthy Ideas
- The Future
 - Vision—the Importance of international/global governance
 - Ambition—confidence in Canada—the responsible effective power
 - Leadership--courage