

to others in the area as well as the expansion of the circle of dialogue to include new key players. Those, of course, are ASEAN decisions. But Canada believes that a widened circle of dialogue can become a widened circle of influence.

As the Cold War ends in Europe, we must see if it can be put to an end in Asia. There is a new freedom to talk, to compromise, to seek local solutions on local terms. There are encouraging beginnings -- talks between the two Koreas, diplomatic ties between Moscow and Seoul and steps towards peace in Cambodia. That is why Canada has suggested a new security dialogue among the nations of the North Pacific and, as a first step, will be sponsoring meetings of experts and officials from the region in the months ahead. ASEAN too can have an important future in building regional confidence in its part of the Pacific. We must seize this opportunity to build together a structure of peace that promotes prosperity and fosters freedom.

We are entering a new era. An era when co-operation within regions and between regions is more necessary than ever to solve common problems and meet common challenges. Those challenges relate to political stability and conflict resolution in the Pacific. They relate to building prosperity through fairer and more open trade. They relate to development that is sustainable and that helps the recipient become self-reliant and the donor to develop trade. Meeting those challenges will make Alberta and Canada more prosperous and more secure in the future, and we could not find better partners than the countries of ASEAN. Please join me in a toast to the unique and growing friendship among Canada, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.