



When discussion turned to China and the security of South-East Asia, the group felt that China's steady accumulation of offensive military capabilities vis-a-vis its neighbours and the West would continue. Recent procurement of submarines and amphibious transport vehicles from Russia is a development Canada should be concerned about. China's ongoing military exercises in the South China Sea are symptomatic of China's interest in expanding its sphere of influence.

The consultation concluded with a view that Canada's foreign policy on China should strive to engage China in constructive ways during a time of great potential instability. Blanket denunciations and sanctions will only exacerbate an exceedingly delicate situation. Increased trade and helping China develop a more resilient civil society should be Canada's contribution to international efforts to assist China through a difficult transition.