

We should look more carefully at institutional means of reducing tensions. The dangers to international peace are greater around the ASEAN region than in Europe today. That provides real motivation to reduce the likelihood of conflict and widen the range of economic and social progress.

Let me suggest that the success of our own forum has a wider application. We are already a de facto group of twelve and our consultations are of interest to many other nations. Could we not act as a body of twelve, for example, to begin a dialogue on political and security issues with some of these Governments? Potential discussants would be easy to identify, including among those who have sought full dialogue status in the past, and those whom ASEAN had in mind in crafting the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. The APEC process may help define economic priorities for Member nations, but some of the most serious problems facing us relate to political and security questions. We should at least consider whether there is some advantage to addressing them together.

Last year, Mr. Chairman, we spoke about the importance of not allowing Vietnam to achieve by default what it could not achieve by force of arms. We, for one, continue to expect Vietnam to do its full part in facilitating a peaceful and lasting settlement in Cambodia. But now, I believe the challenge is to ensure that the Khmer Rouge does not achieve through force of arms what the international community has sought to prevent through negotiation.

Our focus in this meeting should be to advance creative approaches to these long-standing obstacles to peace in Cambodia, and Canada looks forward to working with the leadership of ASEAN to turn a crisp new page in the history of Indochina.

Mr. Chairman, Canadians - and I believe the entire world community - will not accept a return to the killing fields. We must act to ensure that the current impasse is neither prolonged nor worsened. We need positive movement from all the parties directly and indirectly involved, and we need it now.

In regard to Indochinese refugees, we must all reaffirm our commitment to the successful implementation of the comprehensive plan of action agreed to in Geneva last year. It represents the best way to end this human tragedy with humane and effective long-term solutions.