

- (b) Canada has supported the work of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum since its inception. At the second Ministerial meeting of this Forum in Singapore, Canada will pursue further proposals already made public to enhance APEC's role in economic and trade issues, and, secondly, to expand its mandate to cover other issues - i.e. the environment - which are of immediate concern to states in this region.
- (c) Canada believes that there is a real need for enhancing confidence and security in the Asia-Pacific region. At this early stage, however, we do not believe that efforts to promote dialogue should be overly ambitious in terms of either participation or agendas. That said, however, some initial impetus is required to start the process rolling.

To that end the Canadian Government plans to convene, at the earliest opportunity, two meetings in Canada, to be co-hosted by another country from the region. These would include:

1. Non-governmental strategic experts; and,
2. Foreign Ministry policy planning officials.

The purpose of both meetings would be to explore possible agendas and processes for security-enhancing consultations. Both meetings would be designed to come up with recommendations to Foreign Ministers. At present, we would plan to solicit participation from the USSR, China, Japan, the USA and the two Koreas to facilitate a focus on the Northern Pacific region. These initial discussions would, we hope, lay the groundwork for further consultations, including possibly at the level of Foreign Ministers. The proposal to convene both governmental and non-governmental experts is designed to ensure that the broadest possible range of options and ideas is fully ventilated.

Department of External Affairs - Canada
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