

investment contributes to those tensions. It must also take responsibility to disengage from regional conflicts.

The Canadian Government welcomed the very positive formulations contained in General-Secretary Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech on Pacific Security. That positive tone was also a conspicuous and encouraging feature of the New Delhi Declaration. But a distinction must be made between expressions of intent on the one hand and constructive action on the other. That, basically, is the message I conveyed to Mr. Sheverdnadze in Ottawa last October. We welcomed the new Soviet interest in constructive Asian diplomacy; we will endorse any concrete initiatives that make sense; but such initiatives must be taken. When Canada agreed to observer status for the Soviet Union at the recent Fifth Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference meeting in Vancouver, it was on the understanding that the USSR should be given a chance to play a more constructive role. They must now demonstrate their capacity to act as well as promise.

Nothing would more dramatically illustrate Mr. Gorbachev's determination to follow through on his Vladivostok speech than a withdrawal from Afghanistan. The brutal occupation of that country, should it continue, will give the lie to any Soviet protestations of good intent in Southwest Asia. It would be my wish that all nations which share our commitment to democracy and human rights could join us in urging a Soviet disengagement from Afghanistan and self-determination for the Afghan people.

We are concerned also with the seemingly endless conflict in Indochina, which is in large part a result of the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. That military occupation has been condemned by a vast majority of the member states of the United Nations. The material support which the Soviet Union provides Vietnam contributes to the intractability of that situation. I would hope that India would join us in trying to impress upon the Soviet Union and Vietnam that a peaceful settlement, which allows the Cambodian people to determine their own future, is in everyone's long-term interest.

I would like to turn briefly to regional conflicts in two other areas of the world: Central America and Southern Africa. The root of the conflicts in Central America is local poverty, not international politics. Canada maintains an active aid program in Nicaragua, El Salvador and elsewhere, aimed at basic economic development, and direct help to people. We support the Contadora process and have sent experts to provide advice on the best mechanisms of peace-keeping. The Canadian approach to regional conflicts is not ideological but