

discussions with China will be to seek their support for the early conclusion of both these important treaties. Canada would view any further testing of nuclear devices as harmful to this process.

On the bilateral level we will shortly begin negotiations with China on a Nuclear Co-operation Agreement. As you know, Canada has among the most stringent non-proliferation guarantees. If China accepts our conditions it will be another invaluable instrument in binding China to norms of international non-proliferation practice.

Our efforts need not and should not be limited to nuclear weapons. We must also seek China's co-operation in promoting restrictions on global sales of conventional weapons, as well as policies to support the conversion of arms industries to peaceful purposes.

These are all issues I will be raising shortly in my up-coming visit to Beijing as well as when I join the Chinese leaders in the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Regional Security Forum in Bangkok. The Prime Minister will also promote these issues during his own visit to China in November.

Human Rights, Good-governance and the Rule of Law

This weekend will mark the fifth anniversary of the tragic events of Tiananmen Square. When they occurred, in a special House of Commons debate, I and my colleagues condemned the Chinese authorities for these acts of senseless violence. The question we must now ask ourselves is this: What can Canada do to promote dialogue rather than confrontation?

Respect for human rights is an essential part of Canadian foreign policy. Canadians expect their elected representatives to abide by the democratic principles on which our society is built. We believe that China will achieve long-term stability only through greater respect for human rights and the rule of law. Last year in Vienna, China joined with the international community in affirming its support for the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. Canada must continue to work with other countries to ensure that China respects its obligations under the Declaration. This was affirmed in a resolution voted on two weeks ago in my party's Policy Convention.

On a bilateral basis, we have also expressed our concerns on human rights to the Chinese leadership during high-level visits and meetings. The Prime Minister first did so with President Jiang Zemin last November in Seattle and, most recently, both the Prime Minister and I did so with Vice Premier Zou Jiahua here in Ottawa last month. We will continue to do so in future visits, including my own to Beijing this July. We may not agree on