

cratic participation, or blatant accumulation of arms.

We fervently believe that economic reform, political progress and enhanced security are totally integrated. Regional security must entail building equilibrium between economic progress and political development in every aspect.

Another challenge of unprecedented proportions is Cambodia. Canada is there, on the ground, as we have been with every United Nations peacekeeping force. But the nation-building process in Cambodia — the transition from an economic and political wasteland to a flourishing democracy — will be long and arduous. The key question is how we ensure that all parties in Cambodia — especially the Khmer Rouge — come, however reluctantly, to an appreciation of the rights of all.

South Asia, like other regions, must find ways to attack root causes of regional tensions. The nuclear weapon programs of India and Pakistan are largely a symptom of ancient distrust and rivalry. Proliferation of nuclear weapons is the most important security issue on the international agenda. We must be prepared to confront its implications in South Asia, as we are determined to do with respect to North Korea.

Until recently, there has been no intensive effort to deal with urgent security problems and there is no regional framework. Such a framework would have to include China, Russia and the United States, and perhaps others as well.

In addition to these sub-regional problems, we must address a series of common issues affecting many countries of the region. The proliferation of conventional arms sales, unresolved border disputes, civil and ethnic conflict, and increased military capabilities are not yet being addressed successfully, within an established framework for discussion or negotiation. The region now consists of a number of countries with substantial economic weight — and that number is growing every day. They must now play a political role commensurate with their new economic stature. Only a concerted effort by the major powers — the US, Japan, Russia and China — can ensure the development of rule-based systems that will foster long-term stability in the region. But their efforts must be matched and encouraged by others.

We recognize that security structures

and mechanisms are no panacea. Witness the tragedy of the former Yugoslavia continuing despite the UN, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. But cooperative dialogue can result in avenues for cooperation, the acceptance of shared obligations, and the resolution of conflict. So then, where do we go from here? How do we move forward?

Let me express my own vision. I see an Asia-Pacific in which there is a web of interdependence at different levels, motivated by a common recognition that our individual futures are linked. It would be a region committed to habits of dialogue and cooperation. It would have a series of interlocking, mutually supportive, formal and informal mechanisms to expand dialogue as political circumstances required:

- a truly engaged ASEAN-PMC;
- a form of Five Power Dialogue in South Asia; and
- a formal mechanism in Northeast Asia dealing with the Korean Peninsula and providing the framework for a Russian-Pacific partnership.

While we see an opportunity now to extend intergovernmental dialogue, there is clearly a role for major contributions from outside government. Some have proposed a broader “track two” agenda embracing all of the region. This would be an enormous practical and intellectual contribution, which Canada would support, either focused on Northeast Asia or more broadly.

Governments now come together at the ministerial level in the ASEAN-PMC. There is a need for a more substantive agenda for these discussions. The proposals made by Australia at the last PMC offer an opportunity to build a consensus approach to regional confidence- and security-building mechanisms. I emphasize that these approaches are useful also for the region as a whole, and for their extension beyond Southeast Asia.

Canada has no strict preconditions about the next steps. But four main principles are relevant for the immediate future:

- first, inclusiveness. There can be no hidden agenda. All key stakeholders must be involved, as well as those with significant economic stakes in the broader community;
- second, any new regional framework must allow for differentiation in sub-re-

gions, recognizing distinct security approaches;

- third, a broad multilateral framework in the ASEAN-PMC, and possibly in APEC, must build on — not replace — those bilateral relationships that are indispensable to establishing a sense of confidence in the region; and
- fourth, as the building of appropriate institutions proceeds at the government level, a stronger pattern of cooperation among other communities — notably academic — must develop, since many of you have been at the cutting edge of the Asia-Pacific security dialogue. You must continue to press governments on hard regional issues. We need you to bring your ideas to bear on wider issues of global stability, and on how the region can make a real contribution to world peace.

Over time, we expect Asia-Pacific will acquire the stability and sense of self-confidence that would permit it to play a more active and more effective role in global affairs, equal to its economic strength. Today, Asia-Pacific is the most dynamic area of the world. It has become a model to others in the economic field. But its potential for security cooperation has yet to be achieved. An outward-looking, confident Asia-Pacific has much to offer others in helping to manage global affairs.

Canada's commitment to Asia-Pacific is strong. For many years now, our trade across the Pacific has surpassed our trade with Europe. Fifty percent of new Canadians are from Asia and Chinese is now the third most widely spoken language in Canada.

We take our responsibilities as a regional partner seriously and we are prepared to bring our skills and expertise to the table. We will continue to support initiatives that ensure that Canada and Canadians are closely involved with others in developing new frameworks for Asia-Pacific cooperation.

When I spoke a few weeks ago about “the Pacific Century,” I emphasized Canada's belief in multilateral approaches to peace and security and our willingness to back up these beliefs with substantial commitments of human and financial resources. Let me reinforce that pledge today.

As a Pacific country, Canada will be part of the Pacific century.