

Secretary of
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CLARK SAYS MORE ASIA-PACIFIC CONSULTATION NEEDED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today stated that political and economic security in the Asia-Pacific region and the effectiveness of the Asia-Pacific voice in the world hinge upon greater co-operation and consultation.

"Now is the time to turn to the task of giving structure and strength to a new community, a Pacific community," stated the Minister in a speech to the Victoria, B.C., Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Clark will soon begin a tour of Japan, Indonesia and Singapore.

The Minister said that no other OECD country relies more than Canada does on its economic relationship with Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. He said that Canada's stake in the region goes well beyond trade and investment and into other matters such as refugees and immigration, drugs and pollution.

"The problems of the Pacific are not Pacific problems; they are Canadian. Prosperity in the Pacific is prosperity for Canada. And security in the Pacific is Canadian security," stated the Minister.

The challenge of Asia-Pacific security

Mr. Clark cited Korea, Cambodia, the Philippines, Kashmir and the border between China and Vietnam as examples of unresolved conflicts that threaten security in the region. He said that, with the exception of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), there are no regional structures to manage or resolve such problems.

"Persistent security problems perpetuate distrust, propel arms races, prompt questionable nuclear programs and involve a massive hemorrhaging of resources," stated the Minister. "The time has come to develop institutions of dialogue in the Pacific to match the maturity and prosperity of those societies and those economies."

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