

problem, nuclear proliferation. And some are truly worldwide, such as environmental degradation and the underworld of drug trafficking. The successful State of the 1990s, after analyzing the nature of the problem, and taking into account resource constraints, must adapt its response accordingly.

To deal with transnational issues demands a co-operative response. Canadians are famously modest, but we can justly claim to be pioneers of this approach to international problem solving. In the 1990s, other countries are coming around to our way of thinking. As a middle power, Canada has long understood that it must act with other countries to ensure prosperity and security. Because of this, Canada has strongly supported the UN, including by participating in virtually every peacekeeping mission; it helped found NATO [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization] and the CSCE [the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe]; it worked to make trade freer by supporting the new world trade organization and by entering the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement].

However, we must look to the future. Our co-operative approach in the past was focussed on state-to-state or state-to-institution arrangements. In the 1990s and beyond, the successful State will be the one that can find the right mix of players to solve the international problem at hand. This will not always mean co-operation solely at the state-to-state or state-to-institution level: it will increasingly entail co-operation among non-state actors such as NGOs, cities and businesses. The State will play an important role in helping to facilitate these links. Prime Minister Chrétien's trip to China next week is an example of how we are adapting our approach. I will be accompanying the Prime Minister as he leads Team Canada, a mix of provincial leaders and business people whose objective will be to engage the Chinese on a broad range of issues, building public and private sector ties.

If we are to help create more prosperity for our peoples, while ensuring that humanitarian and other concerns are met, then we must pay increased attention to the special character of the countries and peoples with whom we hope to co-operate. Cold War-style blocs and the comfortable stereotypes of that period must be replaced. Canadians come from diverse backgrounds. We feel this gives us an advantage in constructing co-operative relationships in trade, security, or on human rights issues. We are applying this advantage in our approach to issues in the region for which I am responsible.

We are witnessing the beginning of a new period of confidence in the Asia-Pacific region as new economic and security interests replace the traditional interests in the post-Cold War world. Asian states are erecting their own architecture of co-operation tailored to their own needs and with their own history in mind. Canada is encouraged by this but is also sensitive to the fact that Asian countries are not going to replace NATO or the CSCE.