

thing any more as "national" economic policy. Interdependence needs proper management. The great gains of the recent past in Asia can only be secured if the major trading nations in Asia Pacific consult regularly and meaningfully on ways to advance the big issues of economic and trade policy which all GATT Members are now wrestling with in the Uruguay Round.

In Tokyo on Tuesday I suggested that we should consider the applicability to the North Pacific of some of the recent and successful experience of Europe in constructing measures designed to enhance confidence and increase security. I would not suggest the same type of arrangements for South-East Asia, but I do feel that the time is right to examine additional ways to build confidence and defuse tensions here too.

The core of any evolving Pacific community will be ASEAN, the most successful regional organization of its type in the world. One reason for its appeal to nations outside its immediate membership is the dialogue partnership arrangement by which countries such as Canada enjoy a special relationship of trust with ASEAN Governments in discussions about the major issues of global importance.

These dialogue meetings are valuable to us, to improving our own relationships with participating nations, and to strengthening our own networks of interdependence. They permit Ministers to talk with one another in a direct, frank and informal fashion, to share perspectives and improve understanding - the first step in any process of cooperation. Around the dialogue table, I have found an enormous amount of goodwill and desire to bridge differences among us. I have also found that, despite the differences, the twelve nations which make up the dialogue community all share basic common views and commitments: a commitment to market-based economic policies; a commitment to democratic systems of government; and a commitment to finding solutions to common problems through collective action.

I believe that the process and techniques of consultation developed in the ASEAN dialogue forum offer a model for improving cooperation more broadly within the Asia Pacific region. I wonder if some way could be found to apply these same techniques and attitudes to engage other Asia Pacific nations.