

CANADA AND ASIA PACIFIC SECURITYTHE NORTH PACIFIC COOPERATIVE SECURITY DIALOGUERECENT TRENDSDept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

MAR 18 1992

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The end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union have fundamentally challenged accepted definitions of national and global security, although it will take some time before this is fully understood by governments and appropriate policy responses are developed.

The traditional definition of security, the need for protection against armed invasion or foreign-supported insurrection, is still valid - as continuing armed conflicts around the globe clearly illustrate. What is needed is an expanded notion of security (or stability) which takes into consideration questions of economics, environment and resource management, uncontrolled and "illegal" demographic flows, human rights and international criminal activity which has destabilizing effects of producing and receiving states. This expanded notion of security, which Canada defines as a "cooperative security" concept, will be an essential tool for policy-makers in the coming years.

The Canadian initiative for establishing a North Pacific Cooperative Security Dialogue (NPCSD) was first introduced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in speeches in Victoria, Tokyo, and Jakarta in July 1990.

The NPCSD has two tracks - a non-governmental and a governmental element - and focusses on the North Pacific countries of China, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, the United States, and Canada. This focus was determined following an analysis of the four Asia Pacific sub-regions: South Asia, where SAARC has the potential for developing regional consensus on a wide number of issues; South East Asia, where ASEAN continues to evolve; the South Pacific, with the emerging South Pacific Forum; and the North Pacific. Only in this last sub-region, where there is a significant concentration of conventional and nuclear forces, which is not fully represented in APEC, and where growing instability - centred on the Korean Peninsula - would have an adverse effect on Canada's political, economic, social and environmental interests, is there no multilateral forum for policy discussions.

The NGO track of the Canadian initiative is designed specifically to explore issues and prospects for dialogue and to focus knowledge and awareness on the North Pacific. York University organized an NPCSD colloquium in Victoria in April, 1991 to discuss with academic and NGO experts various research approaches to North Pacific cooperative security issues. A series of workshops will be held throughout the year, leading to a more formal NPCSD conference in the fall of 1992 or spring of 1993.

43-262-077.