

Here, I have in mind the adaptation to the Pacific region of confidence and security-building measures which have proven successful in Europe. These might include advance notification of military manoeuvres, an Open-Skies regime, facilities for crisis management and conflict resolution and data exchanges.

Perhaps the place to begin is with a dialogue amongst the countries of the North Pacific, including Canada, the Soviet Union, the United States, Japan, China and, if possible, the two Koreas. At the very least, we may wish to borrow from the example of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference and begin with a dialogue at the expert level.

In addition, existing organizations should look to expanding their dialogue. I have in mind in particular the desirability of engaging Vietnam in the valuable ASEAN process.

Whether through APEC, the ASEAN process or a North Pacific security dialogue, Canada supports the idea of a Pacific community, a community characterized by common interests and a common pursuit of peace and prosperity through co-operation rather than confrontation. For Canada, the Pacific community provides for the elaboration of the search for balance between economic growth and the quality of our lives, a balance between the energy which feeds competition and the co-operation we need to succeed in the region.

In so many ways, for Canada - and for the world - the Pacific represents the future. It is here where the standards of excellence are being set - in industry, in technology, in management practice and in government policy designed to achieve economic goals. It is here that the benefits of association seem highest and the costs of being left on the margins are the greatest.

Communities are based not only on common interests, but also on common values. The Pacific community is far from homogeneous. Indeed, its diversity is an asset. But there is, I believe, a shared view of the value of compromise, a shared sense of pragmatism and a shared commitment to economic growth. It is these values which will sustain us as we tackle the challenges ahead - the imperative of sustainable development, the plight of persistent poverty, the challenge to promote democracy and human rights, and the search for peace and security.