

Mr. Chairman, peace and stability demand vigilance. Canada intends to remain vigilant -- in every region of the world.

Canadians strongly support UN efforts to restore peace in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge, however, still threaten that peace and the viability of UNTAC. As long as the Khmer Rouge finds willing partners to help perpetuate their existence outside the mainstream of Cambodian political development, they are in a position to use force to control territory, terrorize their own people and threaten the peace process. We all have a duty to ensure that peace and democracy are restored to all of Cambodia.

Fellow delegates, the quest for security cannot be divorced from the need to enhance global economic prosperity. The key factor for world prosperity must be a satisfactory outcome to the frustrating impasse in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. We welcome the modest impetus to an early conclusion for that process given in the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized countries summit Declaration. We continue to believe that a balanced package remains within reach.

It is in this setting that we welcome the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA). Commitment to AFTA and to open regionalism confirms the vigour of ASEAN as an economic force in Asia and beyond.

AFTA is a positive development in the context both of worldwide efforts to reduce protectionism and its parallel with our own participation in the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement. These open, regional arrangements, when they are consistent with GATT, can well lead our collective efforts toward ongoing global trade liberalization.

ASEAN also has a particularly important role to play in Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) as we collectively strive to forge an open Pacific trading community. We see the aims of both ASEAN and APEC as being compatible, complementary and important.

The world has marvelled at the impressive economic growth in Southeast Asia. Canadians, coming out of a difficult recession, envy your steady record of high growth rates. ASEAN countries are the economic leaders of the so-called developing world. One by one, the ASEAN countries are finding their own particular approaches to an internally generated cycle of growth and are crossing the development threshold.

This progress represents a remarkable achievement, earning the respect of countries around the world.

Other countries, including Canada, look to your countries for the political and social leadership, which accompany economic leadership, consistent with themes I have spoken of here today.