

An area of special focus for Canada is verification, without which effective arms control agreements are impossible. We have worked hard on this question in several forums, including the UN First Committee, where our verification resolution was strongly supported by India. We hope that all nations participating in the Conference on Disarmament will move forward on the necessary work in areas such as seismic testing.

India's commitment to arms control has been evident in your key role in the Six-Nations' Initiative. You have also made a major contribution to the multilateral process through your chairmanship of the Preparatory Committees of the UN Disarmament and Development Conference.

I cannot speak to the subject of arms control without making one final, unavoidable point. Nuclear proliferation presents the world with unparalleled dangers, and those dangers must be guarded against collectively. The signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by all nuclear weapons and weapons-capable states is, quite simply, essential.

I have been speaking on broad global issues, of our shared interest in those issues, and of our shared responsibility for managing them. Now I want to be somewhat more specific, and talk about Asia.

The Asia-Pacific region as a whole has gained enormously in economic and political importance in recent years. The significance of Asia is now reflected very sharply in Canadian foreign policy. The National Trade Strategy of 1984 designated Asia as the most important region of focus, with the United States, for Canadian export promotion. More broadly still, a Special Parliamentary Committee on Canada's International Relations placed great emphasis, in its 1986 Report, on the economic and geopolitical importance of Asia. The Government made it clear, in our response to that Report, that Asia will figure more prominently than ever in Canadian foreign policy.

A good part of the reason for this emphasis is of course economic. In 1982 Canada's trans-Pacific trade exceeded our trade across the Atlantic and Canada's economic involvement in the Asia-Pacific region continues to grow.

Our interests in Asia are much broader than trade. We have become increasingly aware of the region's significance in geopolitical terms. Simply put, Canada has very important interests in Asia -- in Asia's stability, in its prosperity and openness, in its positive disposition toward the West. We view Asian states not simply as markets, not even solely as economic