

Hong Kong is a very important case in point. We have been supportive of Mr. Patten's efforts to bring greater democracy to the territory, not because we have some ideological commitment to the formula of how many members of the legislative council should be directly elected by whom, or how functional constituencies should be represented. Our aim is, very simply, to be supportive of Hong Kong, China and Britain working out a smooth transition for 1997, one that preserves Hong Kong's identity, prosperity and stability.

Our determination to support the development of stable, rule-based systems and structures, reflects what Canada has been trying to do at the multilateral level as well, and this is very much part of our activity in the Asia-Pacific region.

I believe that Canadians are taken seriously at the tables of Asia because we have demonstrated not only our belief in co-operative, multilateral approaches to peace and security, but also our willingness to back it up with substantial commitments of human and financial resources. We have earned a record that is second to none in terms of contributions to international peacekeeping efforts. These contributions matter.

My visit to Cambodia will reaffirm Canada's continuing commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Cambodian conflict, to international peacekeeping and to advancing the desire of the United Nations for genuine nationbuilding.

What we are trying to do in Cambodia is unparalleled, since it goes beyond traditional peacekeeping to the management of the transition to democracy, complete with the responsibility for registering an electorate, writing laws, holding elections and ensuring the civil peace.

The peace process in Cambodia is fraught with risk, not the least of which is the long-range aspirations of the Khmer Rouge. I will explore this situation in my Tokyo discussions next week, just as I have recently been in touch with my Australian and Indonesian counterparts. While we are all concerned, we are convinced of the necessity for a stable and prosperous Cambodia. The challenge is to effectively manage the transition to democracy and to nurture the rule of law.

Canada has been, and remains, a long-term champion of collective approaches to security in the Asia-Pacific region.

It was Canada that suggested to the countries of the North Pacific that they engage in a more active discussion of security issues -- not just on traditional military security questions -- but on the underlying causes of disputes and the need for peaceful mechanisms to resolve differences. The result has been an increase in activity at the government level and in the