These are intrinsically internal matters, but they are also legitimate concerns of the global community. Indeed, they are a shared responsibility.

Sovereignty can no longer be absolute or exclusive. The world is too complex for absolutes. Cambodia, for example, presents a case where sovereignty and key elements of governance are temporarily separated.

New ways must be found to overcome boundaries that in themselves generate internal conflict.

The Role of Regional Organizations

One step is the strengthening of regional organizations in support of the UN, as called for by the Secretary-General. The London Conference process demonstrates how regional organizations can work with the UN to enhance its effectiveness.

Canada is uniquely placed to advance this approach as a member of a number of key regional bodies -- the CSCE, the Commonwealth, la Francophonie and the OAS -- and as a dialogue partner in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The same consistent themes must be addressed at all of these forums: democratization, respect for human rights, good governance and peaceful settlement of disputes. These discussions can go a long way toward building confidence and easing tensions.

Positive results are already being seen. In the ASEAN context, security was on the agenda for the first time at the ASEAN meeting in Manila this past summer. In the OAS, countries will be looking at ways of developing hemispheric security, including subjects such as the proliferation of weapons -- nuclear and conventional. These are first steps, but important ones on which to build.

European Security

We have, of course, been pursuing a broader European security framework through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the CSCE for several decades.

NATO remains a cornerstone of Canadian security policy. Our political commitment to NATO and the transatlantic link remains firm.

NATO's new strategic concept and Canada's recent reassessment of how it could best contribute to that new role are not signs of diminishing relevance or interest. Rather, they reflect an