

G7 Pledge Cooperation in Combatting Proliferation

The following is an excerpt from the G7 Tokyo Summit Political Declaration issued on July 8. G7 members include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US.

Enhanced cooperation is necessary in combatting the danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles. In particular, we:

- Urge North Korea to retract immediately its decision to withdraw from the NPT, and to fully comply with its non-proliferation obligations, including the implementation of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards agreement and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;
- Encourage the countries concerned of the former Soviet Union to ensure rapid, safe and secure elimination of nuclear weapons in accordance with current agreements, providing effective assistance to this end;
- Urge Ukraine to ratify the START [Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty], and Ukraine and Kazakhstan to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear weapon states.

We also continue our efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regimes, including the Missile Technology Control Regime, and to establish effective export controls. We reiterate the objectives of universal adherence to the NPT as well as the Treaty's indefinite extension in 1995 and nuclear arms reduction. We also call on those countries that have not done so to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention and to accede to the Biological Weapons Convention.

In the field of conventional arms, we will work to ensure the effectiveness of the UN Register of Conventional Arms as an important step towards improving transparency and restraint in their transfers.

inviolability of certain rights and freedoms, as expressed in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I want to underscore a comment [US] Secretary [of State Warren] Christopher made earlier: regional and cultural variations simply cannot be used as a blind behind which a regime can justify torture, summary executions and the systemic disrespect of the rule of law. We are pleased to note great similarities between our views on this issue and those you expressed in your AMM [Annual Ministerial Meeting] statement last week....

As we have in the past, we call once again upon the regime in Burma to restore democracy, to release all political prisoners, and to face up to the reality of change.... Let us be honest. Despite the appointment of a new chairperson, the State Law and Order Restoration Council in Burma has not demonstrated commitment to genuine reform in human rights and democratic development.

We urge all nations in the region to follow the strong lead of Singapore and to convey a clear and consistent message that continued intransigence is unacceptable.

Economic

We have all seen a great change in the economic and trade patterns developing across the Pacific. Our economies are becoming increasingly interdependent, and we have a very real sense of partnership, which allows our business communities to engage in joint ventures and equity arrangements that benefit millions of people on both sides of the Pacific....

We see an exciting future for APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation], building a transpacific community committed to transparency and fair and open trading throughout the region, in which business can expand and natural economies can prosper.

This transpacific community will best thrive in a world where global disciplines and trade liberalization have been assured through a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round [of multilateral trade negotiations]. But beyond the Round, it is only logical that countries of this most dynamic region enhance and extend understandings achieved globally. It may also be via APEC that we help build better understanding about sub-regional arrangements like the NAFTA [North American

Free Trade Agreement] and AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area], and ensure that they are consistent with both the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] and with the open regional community we are trying to build.

To underline our commitment to this regional prosperity, on Wednesday I will sign with my ASEAN colleagues a revised Canada-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Agreement. This new agreement will be the basis for our economic and commercial relations, and highlights the commitment of Canada and ASEAN to a more active role for our respective private sectors as we forge even stronger links across the Pacific. Today, we see Canada-ASEAN cooperation as a relationship of mutual benefit and shared interests — indeed, of real economic partnership.

Before concluding, let me reflect for a moment on important changes on the political scene in Canada. Ten years since our transpacific trade surpassed our transatlantic trade, and at a time when Chinese has become the third most widely spoken language in Canadian homes, it is only fitting that our new Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Kim Campbell, is the first prime minister born and raised on Canada's Pacific coast. This background has profoundly shaped her view of Canada and the world.

No one can walk down a street in Vancouver without being struck by the impact of Asian trade and culture on that part of our country. Just as Canadian history and development have moved westward from Europe, across the Atlantic and over the continent, our vision and our vocation for the future have increased inexorably in the Pacific. Kim Campbell is uniquely aware of our economic and cultural ties with Asia, and I can assure you of a renewed and intensified focus on Asia-Pacific issues, challenges and opportunities.

In building the transpacific community of which we all speak, ASEAN dialogue is key. I am confident that ASEAN's success will produce a ripple effect, as the causes of peace, prosperity, human rights and security move forward both within this region and well beyond its boundaries.

A key focus of the 21st century will be on the Pacific region and its nations. It's a tremendous honour for me to join you today in the ASEAN PMC process, a process at the very heart of this new Pacific century.