

One root cause is the pursuit of nationalism as a political ideology. We all have an obligation to ensure that our ethnic, religious and cultural minorities are not the subject of intolerance and mistreatment.

Economically, we are faced with explosive change. Dramatic developments in technology are driving changes in the organization of production, in investment patterns and in financial transfers. These trends are particularly noticeable in the Asia-Pacific region. In managing these changes we must be sensitive to the importance of protecting the natural environment.

Looking at the immediate region, we continue to applaud the prosperity of ASEAN and its members, recognizing of course that this prosperity is based on maintaining peace and security. Canada's interest in furthering this objective is reflected in the practical contributions we continue to make in the region, from the provision of de-mining expertise in Cambodia to the sponsorship with Indonesia of informal talks on tensions in the South China Sea.

I would like to address briefly three issues which are of particular interest to ASEAN and to the Dialogue Partners. I speak of Cambodia, Viet Nam and Burma. Cambodia represents one of the great successes, and continuing challenges, of international peacekeeping. Canada was proud to be a signatory to the Paris Peace Accords. We provided over 200 service personnel and 100 civilians as our contribution to the largest peacekeeping operation in the United Nations history.

It is thus with increasing concern that we note recent developments in the country that now threaten the gains which have been achieved at such cost. The Khmer Rouge, whose appalling human rights abuses shocked the world in the 1970s and which boycotted the UN-sponsored elections, are continuing the civil conflict in the country. While, ultimately, Cambodians themselves must achieve a lasting peace to allow the reconstruction of their country, it is in the interest of the entire international community to ensure that the legitimately elected government is supported and that strong measures are taken to ensure that the Khmer Rouge receive no assistance from any source.

Viet Nam is continuing its reintegration into the regional and world economies, a process which receives Canada's full support. Our bilateral relations with Viet Nam are continuing to improve. In June, Canada welcomed Viet Nam's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Phan Van Khai. During that visit Canada and Viet Nam signed the first agreements between our two countries in the spheres of economic and development co-operation. In this context, we look forward to a rapidly expanding relationship.