

At a meeting of experts and government representatives on the North Pacific in April 1991, Joe Clark outlined the Canadian concept. He emphasized that the proposal did not seek to replace existing mechanisms, to interfere in bilateral issues or to superimpose institutions which had worked in other contexts (such as the CSCE).

We see a co-operative security dialogue as a regional or sub-regional multilateral exercise that brings together a relatively small number of countries that share geography and have common interests. We have focused our initiative on the North Pacific with this in mind.... There is no intention on our part to force bilateral problems or arrangements onto multilateral agendas or to prescribe for specific problems some multilateral formula or forum. My contention is, though, that some level of co-operation and dialogue at the multilateral level can help create an atmosphere in which bilateral issues can be more readily, but still bilaterally, resolved.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Clark's initiative, known as the North Pacific Cooperative Security Dialogue (NPCSD) has been taken up by his successor the current Secretary of State for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall. The Canadian government is pursuing the initiative along two tracks: governmental and non-governmental. In the non-governmental area, the April 1991 meeting of experts and government representatives (see above) was the first of two planned colloquiums (smaller meetings will be held between the two colloquiums). The second colloquium will be held in the Fall of 1992. According to a background paper published by the Department of External Affairs, "Canadian efforts to contribute to stability in the North Pacific will be focussed on the [non-governmental] track of the NPCSD."<sup>2</sup> The official or governmental track of the initiative will seek to determine the merits of a multilateral dialogue in the region.

In a statement to an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in November 1991, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall, made reference to the Canadian initiative:

In this region, we have emphasized the need to determine the feasibility of establishing a North Pacific Co-operative Security Dialogue. Canada is pleased to note that the principles behind this initiative -- an expanded definition of security issues and broadly based consultation -- are now being accepted by other Pacific nations.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of External Affairs. "Notes for a Speech by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Colloquium on North Pacific Co-operative Dialogue in Victoria, British Columbia," *Statement*, No. 91/17, 6 April 1991: 5, 8.

<sup>2</sup> Department of External Affairs, Policy Planning Division. *North Pacific Cooperative Security Dialogue*. Ottawa: Department of External Affairs, December 1991.

<sup>3</sup> Department of External Affairs. "Statements by the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, Minister of Industry Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade," *Statement*, 91/56, Seoul, Korea, 13 November 1991: 1-2.