

find to be well-framed individually and, taken together, to make a good and effective start at fleshing out co-operative security. The range of issues is broad -- broader than governments in the area may be ready to address -- but I encourage you to explore and research all of them. This is more than a theoretical exercise. It addresses real issues. It will, if I am not mistaken in my judgment of your knowledge and skills, offer stimulating and probing analysis that may help us in governments to see our way ahead more clearly. The second half of Canada's initiative is an official track and your deliberations will tell us a great deal about both the issues that officials should be concerned with and the feasibility of dialogue at the official level.

It is not my intention to pre-empt your discussion or to prejudge your conclusions. As a very interested listener, however, I would like to pose some questions to you.

What are the most serious issues that manifest themselves in our region and affect its security? What are the traditional and non-traditional threats? How can we define and understand these better?

Are there themes or elements that are easier to address than others? Where should we start? How, and in what order, can we tackle the more difficult issues and which of them are not amenable to multilateral -- multilateral in the regional sense -- dialogue or multilateral solution? Which aspects of regional security are better left to bilateral channels? What type of forum is most appropriate for the pursuit of dialogue on each issue?

Let me repeat something I have said before. 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. What could that dialogue focus on in the North Pacific?

I suppose the most important question is: Should we be pursuing such a dialogue? If we do not, what will be the consequences and losses to regional stability? If we do, what opportunities can we identify to enhance our security, our ability to live and co-operate with one another?