

sets; tragic stories of extra-judicial executions and disappearances have filled our newspapers. Canadians are outraged with reason, for we are not prepared to see trampled the principles on which we have built our own country -- principles that we promote in the international community.

Democratic development and respect for human rights are core components of our overall foreign policy agenda because they are essential ingredients of longer-term stability. Economic reform and long-term economic progress cannot proceed in the absence of the rule of law and the rights of the individual.

While the pace and sequence of changes have not always been consistent, Asia itself is full of examples of how an imbalance between economic and political progress has produced upheaval and instability. Violence in the streets of Thailand last May and years of civil unrest in Korea were the by-product of this imbalance. Restoring equilibrium by completing the democratization process and systemically assuring the rights of citizens has brought about in both countries the stable setting in which further economic progress can be pursued.

We do not insist that our models and our structures be precisely adopted by others. The parliamentary system is not the perfect or the only model, but long-term stability cannot be achieved in situations where human rights are not respected, and where democratic participation in the political process is not tolerated.

Our current approach to a number of very important Asian partners demonstrates how we believe that these objectives can best be pursued. In China today, we are actively supporting the development of a body of scholars versed in Western concepts of human rights, so that they can work within the Chinese tradition to transform the legal and political systems as political change unfolds.

Throughout Asia, we have assisted in the development of universities and, very importantly, in developing linkages between Canadian and Asian universities.

In Indonesia, we have actively supported programs to help improve and protect women's rights, and, throughout the region, we have helped to develop the legal framework for everything from foreign investment law to bills of rights.

All of this has been done with the willing support of our partner governments, for even where their institutions may be incomplete democratically, there is a fundamental understanding of the need, for reasons of long-term stability and prosperity, to move toward greater democracy and the rule of law.