

the Soviet Union have been well-documented. The extent of the protection of human rights in North Korea is seriously suspect.

With due respect to the G-7, not all participants in the NPCSD have recognized the 1990s as the "Decade of Democracy", and the Houston Economic Summit plan of action to assist all who are interested "in the drafting of laws, including bills of rights and civil, criminal, and economic framework laws; in the fostering of independent media; in establishing training programmes in government, management, and technical fields; to develop and expand people-to-people contacts and exchange programmes to help diffuse understanding and knowledge", would not appear to be of great attraction to many in the North Pacific - certainly not to North Korea or China.

How then to approach the question of human rights and social issues in an NPCSD context? One suggested approach is to broaden the definition, to include environmental threats to security, and to address relevant issues under the title "Issues of Good Governance".

At the Victoria NPCSD colloquium, North Pacific policy planners agreed that there were environmental issues that could be considered threats to regional stability, but there was no agreement on how to define such threats. Scholars attending the colloquium suggested fisheries issues, airborne pollution, and global warming. Other scholars suggested adding population movement, depletion of ocean-based foodstocks, loss of arable land through desertification and deforestation, toxic waste management, issues relating to migratory species and transboundary pollution. Other participants, citing events in the Gulf, made further suggestions: disputes over trans-boundary resources, environmental security, and ecological terrorism - the use of the environment as a weapon of war.

It has been suggested that Canada should seek agreement on the legitimacy of discussing environmental issues within the NPCSD under the umbrella of "social issues" as a means of providing a lever with which to open the NPCSD to include traditional human rights issues.

There are several broad categories of human rights: the first are those that protect the security of the person, violations of which include genocide; slavery; torture; cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest or imprisonment; denial of fair trial; and invasion of the home.

A second category may be said to contain those rights affecting the fulfilment of such vital needs as food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education. While it is obvious that fulfilling these rights depends largely on the stage of a country's economic development, governmental inaction, governmental indifference, and governmental corruption can threaten these rights just as seriously as the most dramatic natural or economic disasters.

A third category might include the right to enjoy civil and political liberties. These include not only freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and