

sponsored resolutions on the importance of verification to arms control agreements. We contributed to the recently concluded Stockholm Conference, which reached agreements on confidence-building measures that will reduce the risk of accidental war in Europe.

The government agrees with the Committee that Canada has an important contribution to make in the area of peacekeeping. We have added the Sinai to the areas where Canada is helping to keep the peace. Canada is also attempting to play a moderating role in the resolution of regional conflicts. We are strongly supporting the Contadora process in Central America while opposing intervention by third parties. In the Middle East we are giving strong support to efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the Arab/Israeli dispute.

The Committee urged that Canada work in concert with the international community to combat terrorism. We are doing that. The International Civil Aviation Organization recently accepted a Canadian proposal that should lead to significant improvements in airport security around the world. Meanwhile, we are strengthening our domestic defences against terrorism, so that what we do ourselves supports our efforts to persuade others to act.

Mr. Speaker, The Committee attached especially high priority to making the Canadian economy more competitive internationally. The launching of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations and the bilateral negotiations with the United States hold out the prospect of improving access to our most important markets. The National Trade Strategy, in which we have enjoyed the full cooperation of the provinces and the private sector, is producing substantial results. We are at the same time meeting the Committee's recommendations aimed at exploiting the potential of the dynamic Asia-Pacific market. New trade offices, for example, have been opened in Bombay, Shanghai, Osaka and Auckland.

We have paid close attention to the vital role of small and medium-sized businesses in developing our international trade. We will consult with them to see how our export development and export financing services can be further improved to meet their needs.

The government is also doing everything possible to meet the Committee's recommendations in the area of aid and development. We have set out some broad directions in the statement tabled today. We are maintaining real growth in aid