

Conference that produced the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights in 1993 and has just hosted the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing. Despite all the reservations and everything that was said, that conference was a success.

China has provided peacekeepers to UN endeavours dating from the 1948 UN Truce Supervision Operation between Israel and Egypt and, more recently, on the Iraq/Kuwait border and in Western Sahara.

And although China is continuing nuclear testing, which we in Canada have deplored, we are encouraged by China's support for a commitment to negotiate a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] by 1996.

I don't think there is any doubt that we feel more secure in the world today because China is a partner in international peace and security.

Canada's relations with China in the past 25 years

Let me now turn from this quick view of China's recent development in the last 25 years to Canada's relations with China today.

In the tradition of our policy of engagement, I announced in May 1994 Canada's Four Pillar Policy on China.

The Canadian government intends to secure long-term relations with China on the four pillars of our relationship: economic partnership; the rule of law, good governance and human rights; sustainable development; and peace and security.

We cannot sacrifice one pillar at the expense of another, for they are all mutually reinforcing.

This is the basis for a co-operative partnership and wide-ranging contact. The Canadian government believes that only through systematic and wide-ranging contact will we be able to encourage greater openness in China, broaden China's engagement in the world community and, accordingly, advance Canadian interests.

Economic partnership

Economically, Canada has benefited from the fast growth of the Asia-Pacific community generally, and of China in particular.

Bilateral trade with China has increased at an average annual growth rate exceeding 13 per cent since 1979.

Canadian companies are in the forefront of those becoming part of the Chinese market.