

in what the report calls a "joint stewardship" of the North Pacific. We are determined to build on the momentum generated by Mr. Lougheed, whose contribution and dedication have been outstanding, and his Canadian and Japanese colleagues, and to following through perhaps not on every recommendation but on a full range of them.

We will also go beyond the bilateral agenda and will, for example, compare notes on the new American administration. Given the importance to both our countries of our relations with Washington, and the effects on Canada should the U.S.-Japan relationship implode, this will be a subject of some importance.

By the same token, we will inevitably be discussing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with both the Japanese government and the private sector. We will continue to emphasize what the agreement is -- and what it is not -- and we will try to alleviate some of the misconceptions and unfounded concerns that persist about the NAFTA.

We will also talk about the global agenda and its regional dimensions as well. Japan is, and must remain thoroughly engaged in the challenge of helping in the transformation of Russia. I was just in Moscow two weeks ago and, on behalf of Prime Minister Mulroney, I will be sharing what I learned in my discussions with President Yeltsin, with Prime Minister Miyazawa and with my Japanese counterpart.

We know that Japan has a set of very particular concerns in its relationship with Russia that date back a long way. Since the beginning of "glasnost," our Prime Minister has been supportive of the Japanese imperative to resolve the territorial dispute, and we will remain so. However, there are dangers to us all from instability in Russia. The international community cannot stand aside at this sensitive moment when Russia has made commitments to democratic and market-based reforms.

I will also discuss with Japanese leaders the stability and future of Hong Kong, my next stop after Tokyo.

We shall no doubt deal with events in the Peoples Republic of China. On balance, progress in China is real; economic growth and increasing prosperity lead to direct benefits for the Chinese people and indirect benefits for stability in the region by integrating China into the larger world. An isolated, unknown and unpredictable China has never been in anyone's interest.

Canada, however, remains concerned about the human rights agenda in China, about democratic reform and about Tibet. Canadians have a deep and abiding belief in the rule of law and in fundamental human rights. Chilling images of military units turning on their own people have flashed across our television