

Prime Minister Chrétien with Japan's Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at the APEC Summit in Seattle in November.

Cooperative Security

Canada's multi-faceted involvement in Asia Pacific stems from and promotes direct Canadian interests in specific issues, such as trade, the environment, immigration and human rights. It also, however, underscores the complex nature of security. Proliferation and armed conflict in Asia Pacific can adversely affect a range of economic, environmental and demographic interests for all states in the region. Yet it is from problems related to these very interests — pollution, overfishing, illegal migration and so on — that the disputes or insecurities that lead to the spread of weapons and conflict can arise. To successfully prevent conflict, it is necessary to deal with these root causes of insecurity.

Inter-state problems in Asia Pacific have traditionally been dealt with bilaterally. Only now is Asia Pacific beginning to develop the fora and mechanisms necessary to promote region-wide cooperation and raise the level of mutual trust. In Canada's view, one of the major achievements of the NPCSD was its contribution to building confidence in multilateral dialogue in the region.

One of the assets Canada brings to the region is experience in making multilateralism work. There is no substitute for the network of bilateral security arrangements which have guaranteed stability in Asia Pacific. But there are ways of complementing these arrangements so that security and stability are offered to all regional countries in an inclusive, rather than exclusive, setting. Through our activity in APEC, the ASEAN PMC, the new ASEAN Regional Forum and a variety of sub-regional cooperative arrangements, Canada will continue to help make multilateralism a credible, legitimate and workable instrument for fostering cooperative security in the Asia Pacific region.

Forecast

International security activities involving Canada, April through July. Ongoing: CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, Vienna Ongoing: CFE Joint Consultative Group, Vienna Ongoing: Open Skies Consultative Commission, Vienna April 11-15: Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Preparatory Committee, Geneva April 18 - May 9: UN Disarmament Commission, New York May 16-19: Australia Group meeting, Paris May 16 - July 1: CD in session, Geneva June 5-11: Organization of American States General Assembly, Belem (Brazil) June 21-22: Chemical and Biological Export Control Seminar, Buenos Aires July 15 - September 7: CD in session, Geneva July 25: ASEAN Regional Forum, Bangkok

Acronyms

- APEC Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation ARF — ASEAN Regional Forum ASEAN (PMC) - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Post Ministerial Conference) CANCAPS - Canadian Consortium on Asia Pacific Security CBM — confidence-building measure CD - Conference on Disarmament CFE - Conventional Armed Forces in Europe CSCAP - Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific CSCE - Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe CTBT --- comprehensive test ban treaty CWC - Chemical Weapons Convention DFAIT — Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade ESDI — European Security and Defence Identity HEU — highly enriched uranium IAEA — International Atomic Energy Agency
 - MTCR Missile Technology Control Regime
 - NACC North Atlantic Cooperation Council
 - NPCSD North Pacific Cooperative Security Dialogue
 - NPT Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty
 - OPCW Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
 - SOM Senior Officials Meeting
 - START— Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty UNDOF — UN Disengagement Force (Golan Heights)
 - UNGA UN General Assembly
 - UNPROFOR UN Protection Force (former Yugoslavia)
 - UNTAC UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia
 - WEU Western European Union

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