

unofficial capacities. Canadians have been playing leading roles in these activities, notably in creating the North Pacific Co-operative Security Dialogue in 1990. Through funding provided by CIDA, Canada has also been instrumental in fostering consultations on specific areas of potential conflict, such as the workshops on the South China Sea. In the Asia-Pacific region, as elsewhere, co-operative security means more than just reducing armaments and creating barriers to military ambitions. There can be no real security if hunger, poverty, social injustice and environmental degradation continue. Our foreign policy has to be based on a comprehensive approach that involves trade developments and the institutionalization of good, open governments.

Recently, the debate over social injustice in Asia-Pacific has acquired new dimensions. There are those who have argued that democratic development must necessarily take a back seat to economic development. However, I am one who maintains that in many instances, the two are not mutually exclusive. Certainly there is evidence that increased political flexibility is a by-product of economic liberalization, and governments that have opened their markets to international trade are more sensitive to the views and reactions of other countries. An inward-looking society that depends little on trade and international investment is less likely to respond to concerns raised by foreigners. Trade reduces isolationism. Trade also expands the scope of international law and generates the economic growth required to sustain social change and development. Economic liberalization also leads to a pluralization of interest groups in society. Nevertheless, all societies must resolve the tension between individual and collective rights and we must all be vigilant to ensure that fundamental human rights are protected.

In this regard, it is imperative that we as a government continue to raise the matter of human rights with those countries we believe to be in violation thereof, at every opportunity. While we respect time-honoured traditions and cultures, our position has always been that the best guarantee for stability and prosperity is a government that is responsive to its people.

The topics I have touched on today may serve as a preliminary indication of the kinds of issues that will need to be addressed as we consider Canada's relations with the Asia-Pacific region during the review of Canada's foreign policy. We are seeking views and guidance from Canadians in all walks of life to help provide direction in the development of new policies and initiatives for the Asia-Pacific region.

While establishing strong and effective economic and trade relationships with our Asia-Pacific partners is a primary focus, we shall continue to promote respect for human rights, the development of truly democratic political institutions, and the