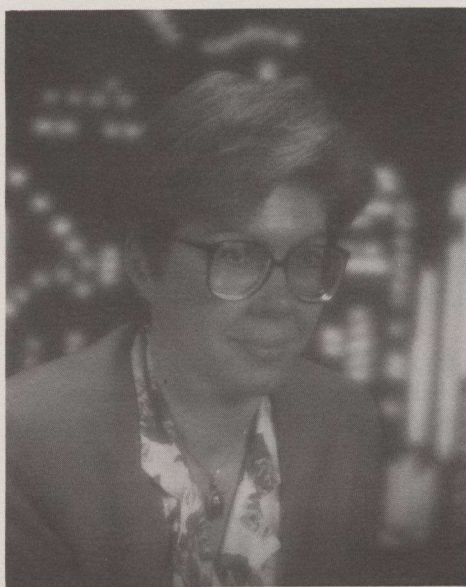




Ambassador Peggy Mason

should be enhanced by a firm common commitment to prevent transfers of high technology with military applications for exclusively peaceful purposes from being diverted to non-peaceful uses. Such cooperation should be based on clearly defined and balanced rights and obligations, appropriate measures of transparency and verification, equity and fairness, and predictability of incentives and benefits."

Without in any way minimizing the extent of the outstanding differences... — because in my view it is critically important *not* to minimize them but to face them squarely — there is, in Canada's view, a clear basis for further progress.

I wish to pledge Canada's continued dedication to widening agreement in this area of non-proliferation and cooperation for peaceful purposes, beginning with intersessional work by Canada aimed at a joint Working Paper going beyond Canada and Brazil.

In conclusion, I would refer to paragraph 7 of the 1990 decision on ways and means to enhance the effective functioning of the Disarmament Commission, where it was agreed that the Chairman of the Commission should conduct consultations year round. I invite him to do so with a view to advancing our preparations for the fourth year of the science and technology item.

So, for those delegations that were looking forward to a respite from this item, I can only say that it promises to be a brief respite indeed. ■

Asia-Pacific Security Forum Established

At their annual meeting held in Singapore on July 23 and 24, foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced the launch of a forum for discussion of Asia-Pacific security issues. The so-called ASEAN Regional Forum will hold its first meeting in Bangkok next summer, prior to the annual ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC). Participants will include the six ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), the seven "dialogue partners" that participate in the PMC (Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the US and the European Community) and five other states that are observers at the PMC (China, Russia, Vietnam, Laos and Papua New Guinea). Participation will be at the ministerial level.

Security dialogue will also take place at the level of officials, in an annual Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). The first SOM, involving representatives of the ASEAN countries and the PMC dialogue partners, was held this year in Singapore on May 20 and 21. Discussion focused on substantive issues of broad regional and global security. These encompassed both Southeast Asian questions, including the South China Sea, the Straits of Malacca, Cambodia and Burma; and North Asian security issues, including Korea, the Non-Proliferation Treaty and China.

Canada circulated informally two short "food for thought" papers dealing with preventive diplomacy and conflict management and with non-proliferation. At the SOM's conclusion, Canada was tasked by the chair, Singapore, with pursuing further work in these two areas. Australia agreed to prepare a study on confidence-building measures applicable to the region, and South Korea a paper on Northeast Asian security. Next year's SOM will involve all 18 countries participating in the new ASEAN Regional Forum.

The SOM paved the way for the ASEAN PMC, which was held in Singapore from July 26 to 28. The Canadian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty. Again, the substan-

tive focus was on regional security issues, with particular importance placed on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Participants also held useful discussions on related political and economic issues.

The PMC's main results were confirmation of an inclusive participation format for future security discussions, involving PMC observer states, and a PMC mandate for senior officials to continue their substantive work on regional security, meeting annually or more frequently if need be. There was agreement on the need for future involvement by the international community in Cambodia, as well as an ASEAN commitment to further press for reform in Burma. In bilateral meetings, Canada and ASEAN countries discussed trade relations, regional security, environment, development cooperation, good governance and human rights.

Canada, which has been promoting the development of Asia-Pacific security dialogue since 1990, was very pleased with the outcome of the first Senior Officials Meeting and subsequent PMC, and with the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Forum. Institutionalization of the SOM and establishment of the Forum represent breakthroughs in advancing a cooperative approach to regional security. Canada was particularly happy with the inclusive approach to participation and with the agree-

The ASEAN Regional Forum and Senior Officials Meeting are breakthroughs in a cooperative approach to Asia-Pacific security.

ment to undertake substantive work at official levels. Canada intends to contribute to the process by following up with dispatch on the two areas assigned to us by the SOM.

ASEAN was created in 1967 to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in Southeast Asia and to promote peace and security. Canada has participated in PMCs since 1977. Taken collectively, ASEAN nations constitute Canada's sixth-largest trading partner. Canada-ASEAN two-way trade has doubled in the past five years, reaching a high of \$4 billion in 1992. ■