

Foreign policy can help through developing the language capacity Canadians need to compete in the region. Increasingly, Japan, the economic superpower of the next century, will expect those with whom they deal to respect more fully their culture, their customs, their language. They will expect us to adapt to them rather than them adapting to us. That's why our Pacific 2000 strategy involves language training for business and that is why I have launched those programs at Simon Fraser University, at the Ontario Centre for International Business and why we will be establishing regional language centres in Alberta and elsewhere.

Foreign policy can help through seeking a peaceful framework for trade to take place. Southeast Asia, the new powerhouse of the Pacific, was once ravaged by a war which impoverished those people and prevented our trade. One of the bloodiest conflicts has been in Cambodia, a conflict which may be drawing to an end, boosting trade and prosperity. Canadian foreign policy has been there trying to bring an end to that conflict and Canada took the lead at the Paris Conference last year which started the peace process rolling. And we will follow through with peacekeepers if that conflict ends to help bring stability to that region.

We are pursuing that search for order -- the order which allows trade and prosperity -- in other ways too. We are taking a practical initiative with the countries of the North Pacific to see if confidence-building measures of the sort successful in Europe might have a role in that region too. We are actively supporting the new forum for Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation -- APEC -- to enhance understanding and economic co-operation across the Pacific. And we are pursuing an active dialogue with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- ASEAN -- whose foreign ministers came to Jasper last month, the first time ever they've been hosted abroad together by one of their partners. That dialogue with ASEAN seeks to build bridges within the region and between that region and the outside world so that peace, prosperity and trade can thrive.

Foreign policy also helps through Official Development Assistance -- ODA. Many people see ODA as charity. And certainly a major purpose is to channel the compassion of Canadians in helping other countries help themselves. But foreign aid can mean foreign trade. Poor countries don't buy things. Developed countries can. And countries that have been helped often turn to their donors when prosperity comes.