

Canada is a strong believer in the merits of collective action, one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations charter. Multilateralism is the foundation of Canada's foreign policy. We are convinced that Canada's influence and independence are best protected and advanced by seeking common cause with others.

Therefore, we welcome proposals which have as their goal greater co-operation among nations of the Pacific. We need not look too far into history to see examples of periods of prosperity that fall into decline because of complacency and a lack of vision as to how to carry forward into the future systems that generate wealth and peace today.

Canada believes that the time is right to build upon the success of this forum, and others like it to widen the areas where the nations around this table and others with similar views and values, can consolidate the gains of the past and plan for a more prosperous future. I look forward to our discussion in the next two days on this timely issue.

Your Highness, we need not look far to see evidence of the threats to stability in this region. I am encouraged by recent developments in Cambodia and the momentum building for peace. We strongly support the efforts of Prince Sihanouk to achieve a lasting reconciliation among the Cambodian people. ASEAN's efforts, especially the JIM process carried forward by His Excellency Ali Alatas, will continue to be critical to success.

With Cambodia high on our agenda and developments in the past year offering the prospect for a settlement, recent events in China cast a sobering shadow in the region. Canadians reacted with shock and outrage to the Tiananmen Massacre and the subsequent campaign of repression. We consulted widely at home and with others on a response to the new and changing political reality in China. Last Friday, I announced a series of measures that rejected the Chinese authorities' call for business-as-usual but more importantly that aimed to preserve the links with China forged by the Canadian Government, industry and academics over the past decade, to emphasize people-to-people exchanges and to encourage China to the open door in economic development and moderation in its domestic policies.

I expect that the Paris Economic Summit, like the previous Economic Summit in Toronto, will be successful and productive. Its main theme will be the reduction of fiscal and trade deficits in order to maintain global non-inflationary growth. Other important themes will include debt, trade - especially agriculture products - and the environment.