

- the management of trade issues (including the challenge to economic growth posed by protectionism and tariff and non-tariff barriers to international commerce); and,
- social development (including human rights issues; issues relating to children and youth; the provision of adequate health care; harmonized approaches to health pandemics (narcotics dependency, AIDS).

VI The Path Ahead

Where all this leads us in the next 12 months will depend as much on the changing strategic environment in the North Pacific as on the energies of governments and academics. Recent trends in Asia Pacific security thinking indicate that a regional or sub-regional dialogue is recognized by most countries as a stabilizing and confidence-building measure. While traditional security issues remain of central concern, they must neither be ignored nor over-emphasized by those involved in broadening the definition of cooperative security.

Canadian efforts to contribute to stability and security in the North Pacific, will be focussed on the NGO track of the NPCSD. The research and recommendations provided by concerned academics will be essential if policy makers are to know which areas of cooperative security offer the most promising avenues; where the obstacles appear insurmountable (at least at present); and which existing institutions or organizations might offer enhanced avenues for dialogue and consultation. The official track will be advanced through consultation within the North Pacific seven and with other interested states wherever and whenever opportunities arise. The two tracks, while not parallel, are complementary, and will contribute immeasurably to the evolution of Canadian academic and official thinking on North Pacific and Asia Pacific issues.