

- "...when I use the term 'Asian security system' I do not mean an organization, or even an ordered group of organizing principles. I mean rather a set of arrangements and relationships which together maintain regional security. Some of these arrangements will be formal, others informal, some will be bilateral, others trilateral or multilateral. Some of the relationships will have no explicit manifestation, they might be inactive in nature but nonetheless effective."

This nuanced approach was further developed by Foreign Minister Evans in the lead up to the July 1991 ASEAN-PMC, with emphasis placed on canvassing ideas from other regional actors rather than proposing further initiatives. Evans also lowered Australia's profile (while protecting its flanks) by deferring to ASEAN's views that ASEAN be the preferred vehicle for regional security discussions. This seeming withdrawal was somewhat compensated by more activist studies by Australian research institutes on traditional military CSBMs, and through enhanced bilateral security discussions with several Asia Pacific countries.

It appears that the Australian CSCA initiative as originally proposed is no longer being pursued, and has been replaced with a policy of ensuring Canberra is fully involved with ASEAN-based security discussions and fostering closer political-security relations with the United States and with regional actors.

Canada

The Canadian NPCSD initiative received mixed reviews from Asia Pacific states. The Soviet Union and Mongolia supported it, claiming - inaccurately - that it was an extension of their own regional security proposals. Australia and New Zealand supported the concepts, but argued that the geographic focus was skewed in that it excluded participation from important South Pacific actors. ASEAN initially viewed the Canadian proposal as an unwelcome, out-of-region initiative. The United States and Japan remained the last to be convinced of the utility of the Canadian approach. The NPCSD initiative, as refined and with its emphasis firmly on the NGO track, is now viewed as a useful process which will contribute to the development of a multilateral dialogue on traditional and non-traditional threats to North Pacific stability.

ASEAN

While each ASEAN member country has its own military security arrangements (bilateral alliance structures with the United States, intra-ASEAN bilateral and trilateral military exercise arrangements; membership in the Five Power Defence