

Thus the Korean stand-off remains one of the most dangerous zones of confrontation in the world. Its resolution depends on the regime in Pyongyang accepting that aggression will never succeed. Until that occurs, the Korean situation will continue to threaten regional - and indeed global - peace.

Equally, in Cambodia, once an innocent victim of the superpowers, a terrible conflict persists which is increasingly local in nature. The legacy of past bloodshed lives on in unreconciled ideologies and ethnic hatred in which today only Cambodians are the casualties.

In the Philippines, we see another orphan of the ideological battles of the past. For decades throughout the region, local Communist parties and guerillas - with the help of Moscow and Peking - sought to topple the governments of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. Only in the Philippines, does this legacy persist, but its persistence is troubling not only for the government there, but also for regional stability.

And elsewhere - in Kashmir, along the Sino-Vietnamese border and in the Khmer-Vietnamese rivalry - we see old antagonisms and ideologies which persists despite the relaxation of the Cold War.

So the events in Europe find their reflection in Asia in reduced superpower tension and involvement. But the reduction in tension has been less complete, and that reduction has not acted to eliminate those conflicts which always have been - or have become - local in nature. There is a specific set of Asian security concerns which have gone unaddressed and which, if not managed, can threaten regional and indeed global peace.

This is where there has been a remarkable difference between the structure of security in the Pacific region and the structure of security involving North America, the USSR and Europe. During the Cold War, a web of military Alliances and institutions for economic co-operation acted to co-ordinate State behaviour and to limit conflict. And now in the post Cold War period, a new set of institutions is emerging, in the form of transforming Alliances, an enlarged and unified European Community and an institutionalized CSCE process.

The Asian equivalents of these organizations do not exist. There is no NATO, no Warsaw Pact, no CSCE. There are no regional institutions where leaders and officials can meet regularly to exchange views and construct new understandings. The one exception is ASEAN, a regional organization which Canada values. However, ASEAN can only fill part of the vacuum we see because of its limited membership.