

The concept of cooperative security that underlies the Canadian initiative is not intended to be an alternative to traditional security arrangements. Rather, it is intended to address all issues of regional concern, and then to focus on areas where progress in developing regional approaches is possible. The Canadian initiative takes into consideration existing bilateral and multilateral channels of discussion and is being developed and pursued in a manner to ensure that the emerging regional dialogue enhances rather than detracts from these channels.

The introduction of an ongoing Asia Pacific consultative framework has been a key objective of Canadian foreign policy. An essential dimension of the Canadian approach has been based on the contribution such arrangements make to the strengthening of regional stability. While formal regional consultative arrangements exist in South Asia, South East Asia and the South Pacific, no similar regional arrangements exist in the North Pacific, where there is a new opportunity for improved relations.

Mr. Clark's definition of cooperative security concerns is quite broad and includes, in addition to traditional military security issues, risks posed by environmental degradation, uncontrolled demographic flows, the causes and effects of terrorist acts and the international traffic in drugs, and economic deterioration.

The responses needed to deal effectively with non-military, unconventional security threats require a heightened degree of cooperation among states - a degree of cooperation which recognizes increasing interdependence and mutual advantage in developing joint policy responses to these threats.

The Canadian concept of cooperative security goes beyond the more limited approaches of collective and mutual defence against aggression or destabilization. As an approach to regional security, collective and mutual defence arrangements will remain central to the preservation of national sovereignty and the protection of national interests; yet, the security afforded by existing defence and alliance arrangements should allow regional states to engage in more cooperative efforts to deal with unconventional, non-military threats that endanger regional stability and national well-being.

The Canadian initiative has two tracks - a non-governmental and a governmental element - and focusses initially on the North Pacific countries of China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Canada. This approach was determined following an analysis of the four Asia-Pacific sub-regions: South Asia (where SAARC has the potential for developing regional consensus on a wide number of issues), South East Asia (where ASEAN continues to evolve), the South Pacific (with the emerging South Pacific Forum), and the North Pacific. Only in this last sub-region, where the interests of the two superpowers and two great powers interweave, where there is a significant concentration of conventional and nuclear forces, which is not fully represented in APEC, and where growing instability would have an