

Kampuchea remains in conflict and if the Kampuchean people are not allowed to develop their country free from outside interference. War is the principal enemy of development, and it exacts, in the short term and in the long term, terrible costs from everyone.

Canada has been involved in efforts to achieve stability, development and progress in Southeast Asia for many years. We have seen the costs which war has inflicted upon the Indochinese states, and the benefits which peace has brought to other countries of the region. In this respect the urgent question uppermost in our minds must be: "Is the suffering necessary?" We insist that political ends, born of unnecessary fear and mistrust can never justify perpetual human suffering and the denial of fundamental human rights.

We have had presented to us proposals for a solution to the Kampuchean problem which includes, among other things, proposals for a cease-fire agreement among the conflicting parties, the creation of a United Nations' peacekeeping force for Kampuchea, the supervised withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea, and the holding of United Nations-supervised free elections. Canada believes that these are sound proposals which could offer the necessary guarantees for the parties involved. They are proposals which deserve our serious consideration and Canada is prepared to give serious consideration to them. We do not see them as necessarily final, and subsequent discussion may reveal a need for their amendment or adjustment. The essential point is that they represent a beginning, a first step in the right direction and the elements of a foundation on which we may build.

On this foundation, we can continue to work towards a solution to the Kampuchean problem that will make possible at last a durable peace in Southeast Asia. An independent, viable and prosperous Kampuchea is our objective, a Kampuchea living in harmony with prosperous, peaceful and independent neighbours.