

## North Korea Poses Nuclear Concern

The most immediate arms control concern in Asia Pacific — indeed, globally — is North Korea's continuing failure to comply with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

In March 1993, North Korea indicated its intention to withdraw from the NPT — the first state in the Treaty's history to do so. Prior to its decision, North Korea had resisted the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct "special inspections" of two suspected, but undeclared, nuclear facilities, as provided for under North Korea's safeguards agreement with the Agency. In June, North Korea suspended its NPT withdrawal, pending the outcome of a series of bilateral talks with the US. However, North Korea did not permit the resumption of IAEA inspections.

While US-North Korean talks aimed at returning North Korea to the NPT continue, there are concerns about how much longer the IAEA will be able to provide assurances that no diversion of safeguarded material has taken place, since the film and batteries in IAEA monitoring equipment in North Korea need to be replaced. If the continuity of safeguards is broken, the IAEA may decide to report North Korea's continuing non-compliance to the UN Security Council.

Canada strongly supports the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula and a strong non-proliferation regime. We continue to urge North Korea to accept IAEA inspections, as required by its nuclear safeguards agreement. We also urge Pyongyang to fully implement its December 1991 denuclearization agreement with South Korea and to comply fully with the NPT.

*Press-time update: In mid-February, North Korea agreed to allow a group of IAEA inspectors to check its seven declared nuclear installations. However, Pyongyang still has not agreed to comply fully with its safeguards agreement or to allow inspectors access to the two suspect sites.*

## Linking Asia Pacific and Global Security

The value of any Asia Pacific security initiative will depend not just on its ability to address "local" issues, but on its ability to relate those issues to broader global concerns. Just as multilateral Asia Pacific security cooperation should complement existing bilateral cooperation in the region, efforts taken at the regional level — whether bilaterally or multilaterally — should reinforce global efforts to build peace and security, primarily through the United Nations.

In *An Agenda for Peace* (1992), UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali challenged regional organizations to broaden their understanding of security and to place more emphasis on the prevention of conflict. He asked that action be taken to deal with problems locally before they require global attention. He also encouraged regional organizations to participate in UN efforts and to help build "international consensus on the nature of a problem and the measures required to address it."

### Conflict Prevention

Asia Pacific is riddled with historical animosities, territorial and jurisdictional disputes, and potentially explosive ethnic mixes. However — the Korean Peninsula notwithstanding — the region to date presents a less gloomy post-Cold War picture than Europe. Increased economic interdependence and a desire to avoid anything that could jeopardize continued high growth rates have stimulated an interest among regional states in conflict prevention and management.

ASEAN has held three workshops with the UN on peace and preventive diplomacy, most recently in Bangkok on February 17-18. Canada provided funding for these workshops and presented papers on conflict prevention and resolution (1993) and dealing with conflict and dispute settlement (1994). The papers drew on Canadian experience and suggested some practical steps that could be taken to enhance cooperation and confidence in the region. These included:

- the development of a set of basic principles to ensure a common approach to regional cooperation;
- the development of conflict prevention and management mechanisms, such as a register of experts upon whom interested states could call to find facts, facilitate dialogue, or act as rapporteurs or conciliators;
- the consideration of measures to increase transparency, such as the publication of defence white papers and budgets, the prior notification of major military and naval exercises, and the invitation of observers to such exercises; and
- the promotion of dialogue among defence officials on issues of doctrine, strategy and threat perceptions.

Canada will be pursuing these ideas at the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting in May.

### Peacekeeping

One of the most successful UN peacekeeping operations in recent years took place in Asia Pacific: the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). This was the most ambitious operation ever mounted by the UN and led to a fair election in a very difficult environment. Many Asia Pacific countries, including Canada, were deeply engaged in the long diplomatic process that led to the establishment of UNTAC and in UNTAC itself. Asia Pacific countries are also involved in the complex operation of peacebuilding that is succeeding UNTAC.

The Cambodian peace process is a good example of the potential for complementarity between regional and global efforts when dealing with issues that exceed regional capabilities, be these due to financial or political reasons, "spillover" outside the region, or the need for the unique political and moral authority of the UN Charter and Security Council in embargoes and peacekeeping.

Canada sees room for Asia Pacific countries to enhance their ability to contribute to UN peacekeeping efforts. Countries could share technical expertise and address logistical challenges in bilateral and multilateral exchanges, as well as in regional seminars. Seminars could also provide the UN with an Asia Pacific perspective on the implementation of *An Agenda for Peace*. Peacekeeping issues being discussed at the UN, such as