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On the Record

Excerpts from a speech by Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy to the Group of Eight (G-8) Foreign Ministers' meeting, Cologne, Germany, June 9, 1999

Over the past few days, we have, together, brought about the beginning of the end of the Kosovo conflict. Kosovo is a good illustration of the human security crisis that the world is facing at the end of this century, and marks a turning point in global affairs, where the security of people figures prominently as an impetus for action.

Eighty-plus percent of the conflicts in recent years have been intra-state conflicts. Ninety percent of the casualties are civilians—and more often than not, they are the deliberate targets of violence. Consider the impact on children alone of the past decade's violent conflicts: 2 million children killed and 4 million disabled.

As it gains a new weight in international affairs, human security raises contradictions with existing norms. Some are concerned that there is a tension between national security and human security. In fact, the two concepts are complementary, not mutually exclusive. Improving the human security of its people strengthens a state's legitimacy, stability and security.

The norm of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states remains basic to international peace and security. . . . However, in cases of extreme abuse, as we have seen in Kosovo and Rwanda, among others, the concept of national sovereignty cannot be absolute. One obvious standard [for intervening] is the perpetration of genocide or other crimes against humanity.

The point is that times are changing, and the UN Security Council cannot stand aside in the face of the outrages we have seen in a variety of violent disputes—for example, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Angola.

I believe that peace and security—national, regional and global—are only achievable if they are built upon human security. ●—



Minister Axworthy at the G-8 Foreign Ministers' meeting

For the full text of the speech, visit the Department's Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca and click on "Publications," or call the Media Relations Office at (613) 995-1874.

Republic of Korea

Visit of President Kim broadens and deepens Canada-Korea relations

From July 4 to 6, Korean President Kim Dae-jung paid his first state visit to Canada, reinforcing the ties between the two countries. Several agreements were signed during the visit, particularly in the areas of telecommunications, environment and military co-operation. Canada and Korea will also explore opportunities to collaborate on projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Canadian involvement in the Korean Peninsula began in the late 19th century, when Canadian missionaries played an important role in education and health care. Official involvement began in 1947, when Canada participated in the United Nations commission supervising free elections. A darker chapter in Canada-Korea relations came with the 1950-53 Korean War. In all, 28 000 Canadian troops fought under the UN Command; they formed the third-largest contingent and suffered 516 fatalities.

Canada recognized the Republic of Korea in 1949 and established its first embassy in Seoul in 1973. Since then, relations have steadily expanded. Korea is Canada's third-largest export market in the Asia-Pacific region. By 1997, two-way trade had grown to almost \$6 billion and was roughly in balance. In 1998, however, Canadian exports declined, mostly because of the financial crisis in Asia. There are now signs of some recovery.

In other areas such as education and tourism, the future appears quite promising. South Korea is now the largest single source of students coming to Canada from the Asia-Pacific region. Some 8000 Korean students attend Canadian institutions for long-term study, contributing approximately \$160 million to the Canadian economy. Another 8000 students come to Canada each year for short-term study and specialized training, contributing another \$50 million.

In the tourism sector, South Korea has become Canada's third-largest source of tourists from the Asia-Pacific region, after Japan and Hong Kong. In 1994, Canada lifted visitor's visa restrictions on Korean nationals, and subsequently Air Canada started regular direct service from Toronto and Vancouver to Korea. The result has been an impressive jump in the number of Korean tourists visiting Canada, from about 40 000 before these developments to nearly 200 000 last year.

On the political front, Prime Minister Chrétien expressed Canada's strong support for Korea's Engagement Policy aimed at normalizing relations with the North. He added that the Republic of Korea's pursuit of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula is in the interest of the international community. The Prime Minister also commended President Kim for his personal struggle for human rights and democracy in his country. ●—

To learn more about the Canada-Korea partnership, visit the Prime Minister's Web site (pm.gc.ca) and click on "Publications," or contact the PMO Press Office at (613) 957-5555. You can also visit the Department's Web site (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca) and click on "Asia-Pacific."