

to specific issues are difficult to reconcile with their national interests; others may decide to postpone participation in any effort at all to construct a more co-operative approach to international or regional stability.

The development of a co-operative security dialogue depends on what is realistic and possible. Unrealistic goals have cut short many regional proposals dealing with security and stability. It is not our intention to join these well-meaning but unsuccessful initiatives. We prefer to work slowly and to take the time to develop consensus.

Let me bring some precision to the concept of co-operative security by seeking to draw a few boundaries and by giving some examples. As I have indicated several times in statements and conversations over the last six months, in proposing that the prospects be explored for enhanced co-operative security dialogue among the countries of the North Pacific Canada is not seeking to establish new institutions, nor are we advocating that we transplant mechanisms that have been successful elsewhere, notably in Europe, into the unique historical, political and cultural context of the Asia Pacific region.

Equally, we do not have in mind a process that would interfere in bilateral relationships or in sensitive issues that others in the region are best equipped to handle or prefer to handle in more restricted company. Let me be quite clear: I do not believe that broader regional dialogue should meddle in issues that the countries directly involved -- Japan and the U.S.S.R., for instance, in the case of the territorial question -- are best placed to deal with.

Moreover, we are fully cognizant of the sensitivity of disarmament and arms control issues, including naval arms control. Our intention is not to launch an initiative into these waters. We do not believe that there would be merit in premature action that has little chance of moving the process forward, nor do I view my own country as one to take a lead in this area. I repeat: Canada believes in what is realistic, effective and possible.

Finally, we do not envisage an inter-governmental process that would involve specific negotiating objectives, but rather one that is consultative, exploratory and informal.

We see a co-operative security dialogue as a regional or sub-regional multilateral exercise that brings