

preserve and enhance the relatively stable peace and security situation in the region.

Canadian peacekeepers and monitors have been active in Asia for over five decades, including our lengthy role in Indochina as part of the International Control Commission and our current monitoring and mine removal program in Cambodia under the UN [United Nations] flag. Canada was not found wanting when others chose war over peace, as the many Canadian gravestones in Hong Kong and Korea attest.

Prospects for future peace in Asia Pacific have never been brighter. A few days ago I attended the inaugural conference of the 18-member ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Regional Forum in Bangkok. Canada is a strong supporter of such a forum. Preventive diplomacy, confidence building measures, nuclear non-proliferation, curbing the conventional arms buildup, and the situations in North Korea and the South China Sea are only a few of the issues we discussed there.

Throughout our discussions there appeared to be common ground that disputes should be solved via political dialogue and that continuing economic growth throughout the region depends on a stable, peaceful environment.

CHINA

Let me now turn to Canada's policy on China, which I know will be of particular interest to many here. We recognize China's central role in global development as one of the great emerging facts of the 21st century. Our relationship with China is based on four equal pillars: economic partnership; sustainable development that protects the environment; regional and international peace and security; and human rights, good governance and the rule of law.

All four of these pillars were featured in my discussions with Premier Li Peng, Deputy Prime Minister Zou and the Foreign and Trade Ministers. My discussions were highly productive in advancing our relations with China and in putting us on course for a greatly expanded relationship based on mutual respect and mutual benefit.

In Beijing, I emphasized the great complementarity between Chinese economic requirements and Canadian capabilities. I am very hopeful we will witness enhanced economic co-operation in a variety of areas, including: energy, transportation, telecommunications, environmental protection, agricultural products, services and oil and gas.

It is Canada's intention to enhance high-level two-way visits with China to promote economic co-operation and political