

9. Regional role for Indonesia:

It is important to find balance between Indonesia's governance and domestic issues and the need for regional security. A model to consider is the South China Working Group, which has worked closely and successfully on the South China Sea. ASEAN is seen as the key to the future and should be supported to become a leader in the region.

CHALLENGES FOR CANADA:

Territorial Integrity: West Papua:

Canada respects Indonesian territorial integrity. There are, however, 173 different tribes throughout Indonesia and each separatist movement are considered unique. Canada funded the first Congress in West Papua to help with cohesion in the movement. Some strongly feel Canada should support territorial integrity with one exception, that being West Papua, and others recognize the fragile stability that exists in the region.

The question for Canada is: "What would the future of Indonesia be with a growing trend towards independence" and "How would Canadian interests be served by assisting West Papua independence?"

Decentralization:

The question was posed, but not answered at this roundtable, whether decentralization in Indonesia is associated with reducing federal powers and therefore leading the way for corporations to fill the space. The rules of decentralization are unclear and this is considered the most important issue for Canada to be monitoring in Indonesia. It was suggested a federal authority be established and supported which would regulate and monitor this transition.

The question for Canada is: "Should Canada draw on it's experiences and advise Indonesia on models and processes of decentralization - that is decentralization of certain central government roles and powers to the provinces"?

Military to Military Contact:

The Indonesian armed forces are smaller per capita than Canada and although Indonesia's military may be small, it is known for it's inappropriate use of force such as crushing civil liberties in East Timor. With freedom of the press has come a greater understanding by the public of what has and is happening with the military. For example 7,000 human rights abuses by the military in Aceh have been exposed. By 2004 the military is to be no longer in the Parliament. However, decentralization will directly influence the future role of the military and this must be monitored closely.

There will be civil society unrest over the next 5 years. People now know through recent experience that protests - particularly violent protest - gets results. The military and police need to understand that non-violent protest is part of democracy and that people have these rights.