

combined with its readiness to enforce its claim by force and the formidable size of its army, make it a major security concern for ASEAN.

As well Japan's predominance in the economic realm is accompanied by a growing readiness to play a political role commensurate with its economic status, ASEAN is concerned about the possibility of military activity by Japan, especially the possibility that Japan might take on an independent military role outside of the US-Japanese military arrangement.

Moreover, significant advances have been made by the Indian navy, allowing it access to the South China Sea. ASEAN need be concerned that this will fuel Chinese-Indian competition and conflict caused in part by Chinese naval capabilities in the Indian Ocean.

As a result of these new concerns, a series of seminars endorsing the ASEAN peace and security concept was held in 1991. It culminated in the Singapore Declaration which came out of the 1992 ASEAN Forum. "The declaration welcomes accession by all Southeast Asian countries to the 1976 Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and encourages the use of established consultative fora to promote external and intra-ASEAN dialogues on security."<sup>58</sup>

In addition, ASEAN leaders have agreed to develop the post-ministerial conference (PMC) (which was a vehicle for ASEAN discussions about economic issues with powers outside the area: the United States, The European Community, Japan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and, since 1991, South Korea), as a basis for a security dialogue with other Asia-Pacific states. In May of 1993 a Senior Officials Meeting was convened to discuss regional security concerns prior to the July 1993 Post Ministerial Conference.

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<sup>58</sup>

James A. Nockels, "Defence Cooperation in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific", in Ralph A. Cossa (ed.), The New Pacific Security Environment: Challenges and Opportunities The 1992 Symposium, Washington D.C., National Defence University Press, 1993, pg. 143.