

WEBVTT

00:00:01.640 --> 00:00:23.600

<v SPEAKER_1>In this episode of Defence Deconstructed, I'm talking to Jonathan Berkshire Miller, who is the principal with the Pendulum Geopolitical Advisory, to talk about Prime Minister Carney's Indo-Pacific visit, to talk about some of the geopolitical consequences and impacts of the visit, some of the security implications, ending with the discussion on his trip to South Korea to visit the submarine manufacturer Hanwha Ocean.

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<v SPEAKER_1>We're also happy to let listeners know that Registration is open for our annual State of Canadian Defence Procurement Conference, which we're holding November 12th this year.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Going to be digging into what the current current government is doing in terms of procurement reform, what they're looking at in terms of the defence industrial strategy, and where Canada sits now on a path to reach 2% of GDP spending as we move forward to meet our NATO targets by the end of this year.

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<v SPEAKER_1>If you don't have tickets already, you can register online at the CGAI website.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Jonathan, welcome to Defence Deconstructed.

00:00:54.420 --> 00:00:55.020

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks so much, David.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It's a pleasure to be on.

00:00:56.020 --> 00:00:57.520

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks for having me.

00:00:57.520 --> 00:01:03.260

<v SPEAKER_1>So we had you on to reflect on Prime Minister Carney's first trip to the Indo-Pacific region.

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<v SPEAKER_1>He's spent a fair amount of time, I think, five trips and counting in Europe, but this is his first time crossing the Pacific Ocean.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Start with your initial thoughts on the visit and the

significance of it.

00:01:17.720 --> 00:01:20.600

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think there's a, well, thanks again for the question there.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think there's a couple ways to look at this.

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<v SPEAKER_2>There's a glass half full and a glass half empty view.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So first of all, the sort of glass half full view is that, look, despite this being the first trip to the Indo-Pacific, it was a significant trip.

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<v SPEAKER_2>He attended both of the key earmarked summits that are always twinned in this region.

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<v SPEAKER_2>One being the East Asia Summit, which is in the ASEAN region, and the second one being the APEC Summit, which rotates throughout the region.

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<v SPEAKER_2>One is more of an economic summit, and one is more of a political summit.

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<v SPEAKER_2>There's some overlap in the types of figures and leaders that go there, but it sort of covers the basis from a summity perspective for both the trade and economic side and the political security side.

00:02:03.400 --> 00:02:07.900

<v SPEAKER_2>So, you know, I give him credit for showing up to both of those summits.

00:02:09.160 --> 00:02:12.120

<v SPEAKER_2>I also think there were some positive things achieved here.

00:02:12.120 --> 00:02:15.440

<v SPEAKER_2>Obviously, you see some of the bilateral meetings with South Korea in particular.

00:02:15.440 --> 00:02:18.680

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there were some significant things that we can

kind of get into later.

00:02:19.780 --> 00:02:22.720

<v SPEAKER_2>But I'd like to get into sort of the more glass half empty side.

00:02:22.720 --> 00:02:34.560

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think you hinted at it, Dave, when you talked about, you know, the five trips to Europe, the significant engagement with the United States right now, which of course is understandable with the relationship on trade.

00:02:34.560 --> 00:02:42.600

<v SPEAKER_2>But that has left some repercussions in the perceptions, I think, in the region of how serious Canada is on the Indo-Pacific.

00:02:42.600 --> 00:02:49.320

<v SPEAKER_2>And, you know, I know that most people don't spend their time looking at news releases and doing PDF word searches.

00:02:49.320 --> 00:02:51.220

<v SPEAKER_2>Maybe I'm just too much of a nerd for this.

00:02:51.220 --> 00:03:01.680

<v SPEAKER_2>But when the original press release came out about the Prime Minister's trip, two things were, I think, fairly glaringly absent for me.

00:03:01.680 --> 00:03:08.580

<v SPEAKER_2>Number one is, I may be mistaken here, but I searched for security and I didn't see it anywhere in the initial release.

00:03:08.580 --> 00:03:20.900

<v SPEAKER_2>So clearly the framing of this trip was very much the old school, 1990s, early 2000s Canadian view of the Indo-Pacific or Asia as a trade destination.

00:03:20.900 --> 00:03:24.720

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that has problems in it in the way that we deal with partners.

00:03:24.720 --> 00:03:40.100

<v SPEAKER_2>The second thing, which I think is also very curious, and perhaps we could get into a little bit more too, is I saw no mention almost in any of the official statements of the Indo-Pacific strategy, which was this key strategy that of course, the same party, different leader released.

00:03:41.540 --> 00:03:52.260

<v SPEAKER_2>Whatever you think of the strategy, I think to not

mention it, I'm sure it got mentioned on the sidelines and maybe in question and answers, but in any of the official documentation, it wasn't really referenced.

00:03:52.260 --> 00:03:58.960

<v SPEAKER_2>That's a curious point as well because the funding of that strategy is up for renewal after 2027.

00:03:58.960 --> 00:04:04.680

<v SPEAKER_2>Anyways, there's a lot of questions I think that still need to be asked about this trip.

00:04:04.680 --> 00:04:07.920

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, maybe just to pull on both those threads.

00:04:07.920 --> 00:04:15.040

<v SPEAKER_1>What's the import to you of not having a security framing as part of the release coming out of the Prime Minister's Office?

00:04:16.080 --> 00:04:27.540

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think one of the challenges is that number one, I think the way that we approached this region 20 years ago, the security issues were still there, but they were a bit more latent point.

00:04:27.540 --> 00:04:32.880

<v SPEAKER_2>Some of the defence budgets in the region and the capabilities economically of some of the players was less.

00:04:32.880 --> 00:04:45.180

<v SPEAKER_2>Clearly, if you go into time now and you see whether it's, of course, China's rise is the biggest issue, but we see the issues in the Korean Peninsula continuing to be concerning, that security is not an afterthought to any of these players.

00:04:45.180 --> 00:04:47.860

<v SPEAKER_2>It's actually sometimes a primary thought to them.

00:04:47.860 --> 00:04:55.340

<v SPEAKER_2>That's one of the main points is that when thinking about holistic partnerships, security is a big part of that.

00:04:55.500 --> 00:05:11.740

<v SPEAKER_2>The second point of it is that I think that a lot of these partners when they're thinking about a long-term sustainable Canada, and it's not expectations that we're going to have a military role equal to the United States, Japan or Australia or any of the more resident powers.

00:05:11.740 --> 00:05:16.680

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think at the minimum, they do want a piece of empathy there.

00:05:16.680 --> 00:05:26.400

<v SPEAKER_2>The last point I will mention on this too is that the framing of this hinged on our relationship with the United States is inherently problematic.

00:05:27.560 --> 00:05:31.880

<v SPEAKER_2>Previously, I think when we would think about the region, we premised things often on the China relationship.

00:05:32.620 --> 00:05:34.240

<v SPEAKER_2>This is how we want to engage with China.

00:05:34.380 --> 00:05:39.100

<v SPEAKER_2>So perhaps we should be doing more with others as a function of that relationship.

00:05:39.100 --> 00:05:47.040

<v SPEAKER_2>I think this trip, whether intentionally or unintentionally, had a frame about, look, we're going through difficult times now with our neighbour to the south.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We're looking for new markets.

00:05:49.200 --> 00:05:53.220

<v SPEAKER_2>Canada is open for business and now we're ready to engage with you.

00:05:53.220 --> 00:06:00.860

<v SPEAKER_2>I think we have to be careful on that framing because it seems very opportunistic, potentially even episodic, which we've been accused of before in the region.

00:06:01.500 --> 00:06:07.860

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that those things I would just want to caveat, it potentially out leads to vulnerabilities.

00:06:09.180 --> 00:06:25.180

<v SPEAKER_1>Do you think in your view, engaging with lots of folks from the region, as a Canadian analyst, you note the absence of the Indo-Pacific strategy, and I guess, again, just based on where the Prime Minister has spent his time, and we've done lots for engagement, that's been driven by a bunch of different factors.

00:06:27.160 --> 00:06:33.620

<v SPEAKER_1>Does the lack of mention of the Indo-Pacific strategy explicitly, do you think that goes noticed in the region?

00:06:33.620 --> 00:06:34.380
<v SPEAKER_2>I think it does.

00:06:34.380 --> 00:06:49.720
<v SPEAKER_2>You know, I think it's, you know, in one sense, I mean, I know sometimes we were guilty of this in Ottawa when we don't do a lot of strategy documents, number one, but when we do finally do strategy documents, sometimes we obsess about the details and assume everyone is voraciously reading them, which they're probably not.

00:06:49.720 --> 00:06:57.660
<v SPEAKER_2>So, on one side, you could say, look, I mean, the region probably was happy that a strategy was released, but it's not living and dying on the fact that there's an Indo-Pacific strategy in Ottawa.

00:06:58.240 --> 00:07:00.660
<v SPEAKER_2>So, it's manageable if there's not one there.

00:07:00.660 --> 00:07:10.640
<v SPEAKER_2>But I think the signal is, and I think in particular, I think it'll be interesting to see this budget that gets released next week, is there's financing attached to this strategy.

00:07:10.640 --> 00:07:16.820
<v SPEAKER_2>2.3 billion, which you could argue is not a whole lot, but still it's something over a five-year period.

00:07:16.820 --> 00:07:30.920
<v SPEAKER_2>My spidey sense is that one of the main reasons why the strategy has not been mentioned is not because Mark Carney thinks it's not a priority or that he doesn't agree with the pillars of the strategy, but it's actually more of a money question.

00:07:30.920 --> 00:07:43.140
<v SPEAKER_2>I think that would reverberate through the region because some of the goodwill that we've built up, particularly in some of those relationships that are reliant on capacity building like the Philippines, part of that has been financial.

00:07:43.140 --> 00:07:49.380
<v SPEAKER_2>We've been able to provide some pretty significant projects there on dark vessel detection in other areas.

00:07:49.660 --> 00:07:55.540
<v SPEAKER_2>If the money runs out, I don't want to say the goodwill will run out, I think it will be something that we're going to have to manage carefully.

00:07:57.680 --> 00:08:08.660

<v SPEAKER_1>My presumption would be that it would help reinforce, as you said, that we've had a perception that we're hot and cold on the region, and whether or not we're in it for the long term, I think is still an open question for some people.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I would think that they might take indications like that, even if it's not a huge financial commitment.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I recall much being made of the fact that this strategy was funded.

00:08:18.540 --> 00:08:24.340

<v SPEAKER_1>If it becomes unfunded or less funded, then I would personally take some direction from that myself.

00:08:25.460 --> 00:08:28.720

<v SPEAKER_1>Do you maybe want to just offer a comment about the multilateral forums?

00:08:28.720 --> 00:08:35.400

<v SPEAKER_1>Are there anything of note, kind of broadly speaking, from the two meetings that you mentioned that people should be tracking?

00:08:35.400 --> 00:08:41.320

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think one of the things I think is interesting, I'll start with the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN-related meetings.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think there has been some progress there.

00:08:43.000 --> 00:08:45.420

<v SPEAKER_2>And I'd even give credit to the former government on this.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, this has been a long process that actually has even transcended before Trudeau Jog office.

00:08:50.140 --> 00:08:53.280

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think the Harper government was working on this, too.

00:08:53.280 --> 00:08:58.980

<v SPEAKER_2>It's trying to unlock ourselves into some of the bigger multilateral clubs within ASEAN.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So without getting too granular, I mean, Canada has been a founding member, a dialogue partner of the ASEAN Regional Forum, but has not made it to that big summit level, the East Asia Summit, as a permanent member.

00:09:10.660 --> 00:09:15.120

<v SPEAKER_2>We're often invited as a guest of the chair in recent years, and that's a positive development.

00:09:15.120 --> 00:09:19.560

<v SPEAKER_2>But that's one of the key goalposts, I think, multilaterally, that Canada wants to get to.

00:09:19.560 --> 00:09:26.180

<v SPEAKER_2>The second one, which is twin to that, is the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting Plus, so more on the defence security side.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think we're moving step by step in that direction.

00:09:29.780 --> 00:09:38.020

<v SPEAKER_2>The Free Trade Agreement that got announced as, I think this was one of the deliverables, although it's a soft deliverable because nothing's been finalized.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But it's the plans to finalize the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement by 2016 or 2026.

00:09:47.820 --> 00:09:53.600

<v SPEAKER_2>I see that more as a political tool rather than an actual economic tool that will provide benefits for our business.

00:09:53.600 --> 00:09:57.740

<v SPEAKER_2>We already have the CPTPP with many of the ASEAN members.

00:09:57.740 --> 00:10:00.040

<v SPEAKER_2>We have some bilateral free trade agreements.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So that sort of deliverable is actually meant to unlock those other multilaterals that we want to get into, which the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus.

00:10:11.020 --> 00:10:13.100

<v SPEAKER_2>APEC, I think, is a bit of a different story.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, we've been engaged there from a multilateral perspective.

00:10:15.680 --> 00:10:23.940

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't want to downplay some of the work that's happening in the subgroups of APEC, but it's really become a really important convening forum now for all of the players.

00:10:23.940 --> 00:10:31.100

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, you have China there at the Xi Jinping level, which now Xi Jinping has not come to a whole lot of summits.

00:10:31.100 --> 00:10:36.240

<v SPEAKER_2>So I mean, outside of G20 and APEC, there's not a whole lot of opportunities to meet with leaders like Xi.

00:10:37.340 --> 00:10:41.900

<v SPEAKER_2>So you have Russia usually attend, but of course Vladimir Putin did not attend this one.

00:10:41.900 --> 00:10:51.620

<v SPEAKER_2>So APEC has become more of one of those summitry places where I think with the East Asia Summit, they have a lot of different sort of formulations there.

00:10:53.240 --> 00:10:56.680

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00:10:56.680 --> 00:10:59.200

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00:11:09.840 --> 00:11:14.580

<v SPEAKER_1>You'd also mention that in addition to those multilateral forum, there were a series of bilateral engagements.

00:11:14.580 --> 00:11:24.360

<v SPEAKER_1>I guess one that maybe got more attention in Canada is the one that didn't really happen beyond a wink and a gun at dinner between Prime Minister Carney and President Trump.

00:11:24.360 --> 00:11:28.540

<v SPEAKER_1>But what were some of the other meetings and which of those do you think would have some significance?

00:11:28.540 --> 00:11:34.180

<v SPEAKER_1>I think there were some consequential things that came out of the engagements to the Republic of Korea, so maybe we'll

end on that one.

00:11:34.180 --> 00:11:38.840

<v SPEAKER_1>But what would you flag as some of the other engagements the Prime Minister had in the region?

00:11:38.840 --> 00:11:39.260

<v SPEAKER_2>Sure.

00:11:39.260 --> 00:11:40.880

<v SPEAKER_2>Maybe we can come back to Korea at the end.

00:11:40.880 --> 00:11:43.040

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think there were some other really interesting ones.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, starting just quickly in Southeast Asia.

00:11:46.680 --> 00:11:53.360

<v SPEAKER_2>In particular, I think the Philippines relationship is one that's gone a little bit unnoticed, but has really been progressing on a lot of fronts.

00:11:53.360 --> 00:11:57.340

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, you've probably been tracking a lot of the things happening in the defense relationship.

00:11:57.340 --> 00:12:06.740

<v SPEAKER_2>Some of the agreements which I think are really important, and moving forward on reciprocal access, and actually just really taking that relationship to the next level.

00:12:06.740 --> 00:12:09.720

<v SPEAKER_2>I think there's a lot of ambition there from the Filipino side.

00:12:09.720 --> 00:12:16.660

<v SPEAKER_2>The one point of caution and caveat is that, of course, politics can alter your trajectories, and we don't know.

00:12:16.660 --> 00:12:27.420

<v SPEAKER_2>Right now, we're in a sort of a honeymoon period in our relationship with the Philippines, I think with the Marcos government, but things could shift in the future with the Philippines, and I think that could alter that trajectory.

00:12:28.500 --> 00:12:38.840

<v SPEAKER_2>But there were positive things that came out of that meeting, announcement of free trade negotiations, which I think would

be quite significant, because the Philippines is not covered under any of those other rubrics.

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<v SPEAKER_2>It's not in the CPDBP.

00:12:41.560 --> 00:12:47.740

<v SPEAKER_2>It would be in that ASEAN FTA that we're negotiating, but a bilateral trade agreement would be helpful.

00:12:47.740 --> 00:12:55.840

<v SPEAKER_2>The big one, though, that I would focus on, I mean, there are other ones that happened, but was the China one, which is a very significant approach.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, this followed up a series of sequential sort of visits.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Foreign Minister Anand was the most recent one who visited China.

00:13:04.060 --> 00:13:20.700

<v SPEAKER_2>She highlighted kind of unfortunately, in my view, the strategic partnership language, which in diplomatic terms technically had existed at one point in time, but I'm not sure with everything, all the water under the bridge in the past few years, whether right now that's the right terminology.

00:13:20.700 --> 00:13:21.900

<v SPEAKER_2>But anyways, it was used.

00:13:22.840 --> 00:13:27.140

<v SPEAKER_2>I think, Carney, in principle, I'm in favour of dialogue.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think that you have to have discussions with even countries that you have challenges with.

00:13:31.220 --> 00:13:41.820

<v SPEAKER_2>So I'm not averse to the fact that the foreign minister went to China, had those discussions or that Mark Carney is having those discussions on the sideline of APEC.

00:13:41.820 --> 00:13:46.480

<v SPEAKER_2>I'm also not even opposed to the idea of potentially him going to China for a state level visit.

00:13:46.480 --> 00:13:48.800

<v SPEAKER_2>Look, in principle, that's okay.

00:13:49.760 --> 00:13:58.320

<v SPEAKER_2>It's about the very razor clear-eyed understanding of number one, China hasn't shifted any of its positions on most of the things that we really care about.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And also the point that I think is probably well known to a lot of your listeners that China doesn't compartmentalize its foreign policy tools the way that we might hope it does.

00:14:07.640 --> 00:14:15.620

<v SPEAKER_2>So time and time again, they've used economic and trade measures to weaponize for their own foreign policy interests.

00:14:15.620 --> 00:14:29.520

<v SPEAKER_2>So as long as those things are very fully understood, the idea of the 90s or early 2000s of bifurcating trade and security is just a really challenging thing for all partners who try to engage with China.

00:14:29.520 --> 00:14:36.780

<v SPEAKER_2>So that's sort of my view on that bilateral and maybe we can kind of dovetail into Korea to finish off.

00:14:36.780 --> 00:14:46.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Just before we get to the Korean discussion, what's your sense of is it, what impact does it have with our other engagements regionally that the Prime Minister did go and meet with Xi?

00:14:46.700 --> 00:14:49.060

<v SPEAKER_1>Does that color other people's perceptions?

00:14:49.060 --> 00:14:50.200

<v SPEAKER_1>Is it expected?

00:14:50.200 --> 00:14:51.700

<v SPEAKER_1>Do they find it curious when we don't?

00:14:51.800 --> 00:14:57.200

<v SPEAKER_1>What's your read of how others look at that decision by Canada to engage the way we have?

00:14:58.440 --> 00:15:01.140

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I think there's all sorts of different reactions, and that's the thing.

00:15:01.340 --> 00:15:02.700

<v SPEAKER_2>It depends on what part of the world.

00:15:02.700 --> 00:15:13.200

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, what I found fascinating in a way is if you were to think three years ago when the Indo-Pacific strategy just came out and we called China a disruptive actor.

00:15:13.200 --> 00:15:25.340

<v SPEAKER_2>I remember when we had visits from European members of parliament and others who, Europe has also had a hot and cold view on China and has been accused at times of being a bit too dovish on China, especially from the United States.

00:15:25.340 --> 00:15:32.380

<v SPEAKER_2>To actually have Europeans come in actually in recent months and actually say, you guys are getting quite softer on China.

00:15:32.380 --> 00:15:36.220

<v SPEAKER_2>It's very ironic and it shows how much things have been shifting.

00:15:36.220 --> 00:15:39.100

<v SPEAKER_2>You're seeing a lot of views outside of the region.

00:15:39.820 --> 00:15:43.020

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't want to say concern, but actually they're puzzled.

00:15:43.020 --> 00:15:49.600

<v SPEAKER_2>Even though they're dealing with the United States as well, they haven't taken as dramatic steps to really court China.

00:15:49.600 --> 00:15:50.500

<v SPEAKER_2>That's one thing.

00:15:50.620 --> 00:15:58.780

<v SPEAKER_2>I think also in the region, there are going to be some who are probably happy that we're not taking a zero sum approach that may be closer to the United States.

00:15:58.780 --> 00:16:02.520

<v SPEAKER_2>But also, the region itself deals with a challenging China.

00:16:02.740 --> 00:16:08.680

<v SPEAKER_2>Whether it's Japan, South Korea, which we'll talk about next, which is having challenges in the Yellow Sea with China.

00:16:08.860 --> 00:16:15.820

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, it's by no means do these countries, even though they rely on trade with China, have perfect relationships with China.

00:16:15.820 --> 00:16:28.160

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think they'll be open to the fact that we're having discussions, but I think they'll be interested to see what sort of concessions Canada makes, for example, on trade and what that might mean down the road.

00:16:29.560 --> 00:16:30.400

<v SPEAKER_1>Okay.

00:16:30.400 --> 00:16:37.020

<v SPEAKER_1>So to finish off the discussion, and I think not quite the way you finished off the trip necessarily, but certainly got a lot of attention.

00:16:37.780 --> 00:16:52.080

<v SPEAKER_1>The Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence, the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, they all together visited the shipyard, and then some of those other configuration of Canadians went and had some other engagements with South Korean officials.

00:16:52.200 --> 00:17:04.180

<v SPEAKER_1>What was your sense of that trip, beyond the fact that the Prime Minister was, I don't know if he found tires to kick, but he was otherwise personally checking out a submarine as part of our project to purchase new ones?

00:17:06.220 --> 00:17:14.880

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, I think that was number one, it was to be expected in the sense that it was telegraphed a little before that he would visit both the shipyards in Germany and also in South Korea.

00:17:14.880 --> 00:17:25.420

<v SPEAKER_2>But still, until it actually happens that you don't know sometimes if this gets sidelined, if his advisors or if he just says, okay, well, I'll send the Defence Minister and I don't see the need to attend.

00:17:25.420 --> 00:17:26.520

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think it was positive.

00:17:26.520 --> 00:17:36.320

<v SPEAKER_2>And as much as I started the conversation with saying the lead was very non-security specific, it's not that this trip was bereft of any discussion on security defence.

00:17:36.320 --> 00:17:42.240

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think the Korea leg and anchor of the trip absolutely had that sort of focus on it.

00:17:42.240 --> 00:17:52.880

<v SPEAKER_2>And not only, of course, the submarine discussion, but I mean the 2 plus 2, which is now in operation between Korea and Canada, the new sort of Indo-Pacific Defence and Security Dialogue, which was announced.

00:17:52.880 --> 00:17:56.480

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, all of these things are really positive.

00:17:56.480 --> 00:18:04.300

<v SPEAKER_2>The one thing, we probably don't have the time and space to talk too much about the procurement process itself, which you know probably better than I do.

00:18:04.300 --> 00:18:22.700

<v SPEAKER_2>But the one thing that I'm concerned about on this is that, regardless of which decision we make, the perception consequences and the view of this, in addition to all the other things I mentioned about the Indo-Pacific strategy potentially melting away from a financial side, I think those things we have to take into account.

00:18:22.700 --> 00:18:26.580

<v SPEAKER_2>You don't make decisions on massive procurement decisions based on that.

00:18:26.580 --> 00:18:44.760

<v SPEAKER_2>But I think that's a consideration that if we decide to go with the German-Norwegian bit, that's going to have consequences that I think that transcend just the Canada-Korea relationship, but will be felt more broadly in the region about how seriously we're thinking about a holistic relationship with Asia.

00:18:44.760 --> 00:18:50.300

<v SPEAKER_2>I think that's something in the back of my mind as this decision makes its way forward.

00:18:51.680 --> 00:18:55.940

<v SPEAKER_1>In addition to that visit, there was also the engagement between Mr.

00:18:55.940 --> 00:18:57.760

<v SPEAKER_1>Carney and other Korean officials.

00:18:59.300 --> 00:19:03.720

<v SPEAKER_1>I guess I wasn't quite sure how to interpret the statement about enhanced cooperation moving forward.

00:19:03.880 --> 00:19:09.360

<v SPEAKER_1>We've been on this path of increasing incremental steps,

institutionalizing that relationship.

00:19:09.660 --> 00:19:12.600

<v SPEAKER_1>What did you make of what came of that?

00:19:12.600 --> 00:19:16.080

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah, I think in the Canada-Korea context you're referring to.

00:19:16.080 --> 00:19:17.000

<v SPEAKER_1>Yeah.

00:19:17.000 --> 00:19:17.500

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:19:17.500 --> 00:19:21.740

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think that there's a number of things that seem to be moving forward on that.

00:19:21.740 --> 00:19:24.960

<v SPEAKER_2>I think some of them are going to be subgroupings from the 2 plus 2.

00:19:25.180 --> 00:19:28.880

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think starting that out is a really positive thing.

00:19:28.880 --> 00:19:37.220

<v SPEAKER_2>As I mentioned on the onset to the establishment, I think it's the first ever Defence and Security dialogue that they put in place as well.

00:19:37.220 --> 00:19:45.300

<v SPEAKER_2>And I'm sure in the process of this procurement thing, they're thinking about other types of ways that they can set up institutions and infrastructure.

00:19:45.300 --> 00:19:50.960

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think there's a number of discussions that I think South Korea is sort of having on that front.

00:19:50.960 --> 00:20:03.060

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, I should say too, I mean, of the Anchor Defence Partnerships, and I think you probably know this quite well as well, Dave, but South Korea and Japan clearly are the largest and most mature ones that Canada has.

00:20:03.060 --> 00:20:09.460

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think we're seeing an ascendancy to the Canada-Korea defence relationship that pretty much is unrivaled in the region.

00:20:09.460 --> 00:20:14.880

<v SPEAKER_2>So it doesn't surprise me that we're thinking about new sort of institutional frameworks to do that in.

00:20:14.940 --> 00:20:16.340

<v SPEAKER_1>Okay.

00:20:16.340 --> 00:20:18.740

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, Jonathan, thanks very much for joining us today.

00:20:18.740 --> 00:20:23.120

<v SPEAKER_1>It's been a long week of following events on the other side of the world.

00:20:23.120 --> 00:20:26.660

<v SPEAKER_1>Between that and baseball, I'm sure both of us need some more sleep.

00:20:26.660 --> 00:20:30.500

<v SPEAKER_1>So thanks very much for joining us here at the end of the week to reflect on that.

00:20:30.500 --> 00:20:34.960

<v SPEAKER_1>Last question to you as you've been following that and watching the Jays.

00:20:34.960 --> 00:20:37.960

<v SPEAKER_1>What have you been finding time to read?

00:20:37.960 --> 00:20:39.520

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I've been looking at a few different things.

00:20:39.520 --> 00:20:40.920

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, I wish I had more time to read.

00:20:41.340 --> 00:20:46.940

<v SPEAKER_2>But one of the books that I'm really interested in is Greg Poling's book on the South China Sea.

00:20:46.940 --> 00:20:51.600

<v SPEAKER_2>So I'll be headed actually next week to the Philippines for the South China Sea Dialogue.

00:20:51.600 --> 00:21:00.060

<v SPEAKER_2>And I would instruct readers to check out this book on the South China Sea written by Greg Poling, who's a senior fellow at CSIS.

00:21:00.060 --> 00:21:03.540

<v SPEAKER_2>And it's a conflict that sometimes doesn't get the attention of other ones.

00:21:03.540 --> 00:21:07.640

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, people are focused even in this region a lot on Taiwan.

00:21:07.640 --> 00:21:09.780

<v SPEAKER_2>We have enough conflicts to keep us up at night.

00:21:09.900 --> 00:21:16.600

<v SPEAKER_2>But checking out Greg Poling's book on the South China Sea is a pretty good one to look at.

00:21:16.600 --> 00:21:17.420

<v SPEAKER_1>OK.

00:21:17.420 --> 00:21:19.640

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, thanks again for joining us today on Defence Deconstructed.

00:21:19.640 --> 00:21:21.300

<v SPEAKER_1>Appreciate it.

00:21:21.300 --> 00:21:23.440

<v SPEAKER_2>Thanks a lot, Dave.

00:21:23.440 --> 00:21:25.620

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for listening to Defence Deconstructed.

00:21:25.620 --> 00:21:31.100

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00:21:31.100 --> 00:21:37.120

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00:21:37.720 --> 00:21:40.300

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00:21:40.300 --> 00:21:43.940

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