

activities".<sup>55</sup> If such measures are negotiated in the second stage of talks on CSBMs, one result will be a further reduction in the possibility of war by accident or miscalculation.

### Concept of Stability

All of the factors so far raised -- the risk of and capability for surprise attack, the geostrategic positions of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and the possibility of conflict by accident or miscalculation -- bear on the perception of stability. The concept of stability is directly related to the balance of forces. It is also applied to measures which could form part of a treaty on conventional forces in Europe.

Stability is a dynamic concept, reflecting quantitative and qualitative shifts in the military confrontation. Thus, in addition to the balance of forces, stability is affected by technological development. In the absence of conflict there exists a degree of stability. Maintaining whatever degree of stability exists and enhancing it are common objectives of defence policy and of arms control and disarmament policy.<sup>56</sup> Thus the NATO declaration on MBFR in 1968 stated as one of the agreed principles that reductions "should not be such as to risk destabilizing the situation in Europe."<sup>57</sup> At the same time agreement on reductions was seen as a necessary step in reducing military confrontation and thereby enhancing military stability.<sup>58</sup>

Stability has been a central concept in planning for the new negotiation, so much so that its unofficial title was "Conventional Stability Talks".<sup>59</sup> NATO wants to eliminate asymmetries "which are detrimental to Western security and which are a source of potential instability" and, in the process, arrive at a "stable balance of conventional

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<sup>55</sup> Statement issued at the NATO Ministerial Meeting, 8 December 1988, paragraph 10.

<sup>56</sup> On the complexity of maintaining and enhancing stability see Andrew P. Rasiulis, "Conventional Arms Control: Stabilizing the Balance in Europe," Canadian Defence Quarterly, Winter 1988, p. 42.

<sup>57</sup> Communiqué of NATO Ministerial Meeting, Reykjavik, 24-25 June 1968.

<sup>58</sup> At that time many statements used "stability" and "security" interchangeably.

<sup>59</sup> NATO countries' unofficial title for the talks.