

I The Scope and Purpose of the Study

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The recent improvements in East-West relations have established an atmosphere in which the prospects for arms control are extremely promising. There have been encouraging developments in the negotiations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and between the two former blocs in Europe. Should these conditions persist through the decade, the chief security concerns of the world are probably going to be centred in other regions. Arms control is likely to become more of a multilateral than a bilateral activity, and could become a global matter for the United Nations (UN).

The success of several existing arms control agreements has been closely related to their provisions for verification. However, the possibility of effective verification depends on the type of armaments concerned, the level of co-operation prevailing among the parties to the agreement, the technology used to obtain information and the arrangements for the implementation of the verification process.

Nearly all of the current efforts in arms control, including the aspect of verification, are being directed toward negotiations now in progress or immediately pending. In contrast, the purpose of this "Verification 2000" study is to assess recent trends in verification, to project them through this decade, to attempt a forecast of the prospects for verification to the year 2000, and to identify profitable areas for further research.

"Verification" will be interpreted broadly enough to encompass security-related measures beyond the strict limits of arms control or disarmament agreements. Other significant international agreements that could be in place by 2000, such as those to limit global pollution or resource depletion, may also require verification, but will not be analyzed in this study.

The study concludes with suggestions regarding research that may prove useful for facing future problems in verification, and that could be suitable for a concerned middle power such as Canada.

