

## INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security and the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (Carleton University, Ottawa) convened a workshop entitled "Managing Regional Conflict: Regimes and Third-Party Mediation" in Ottawa on May 6-7, 1988. This was a follow-up to the workshop held in November 1987 (the proceedings of which are presented by Robert Miller in the CIIPS Working Paper #8). Building on the case studies presented in the November session, the workshop focussed on the theoretical dimensions of third-party mediation, specifically the application of the concept of "security regime" to a variety of regional conflicts.

Paper presentations and discussion were shaped by a series of questions (see Appendix C) sent in advance to workshop participants. The questions were designed to define the parameters of discussion and to serve as the basis for a critical assessment of the analytical utility of the notion of security regime, as developed in the work of Robert Jervis and Joseph Nye (for a review of key concepts, refer to Appendix B).

A number of recurrent themes were evident in paper presentations and discussion. Most prominently: What is the analytical utility of "security regime"? How does the concept help us to understand a conflict and generate useful policy recommendations? Does identification of the elements of a security regime help us in developing effective third-party intervention strategies?