

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Until recently, the military importance of the Arctic had gradually declined since the days when long-range bombers, and the defences against them, were paramount in the strategic calculations of the Superpowers. Over the last few years, however, several trends in military technology and strategic doctrine have directed attention to the Arctic once again.

Corresponding to this heightened military interest has been a growth in calls for some kind of arms control in the area. The following paper examines a variety of past proposals for such measures; it seeks to explain why so few of them have elicited any interest so far among the governments concerned, and to determine whether any of them are both feasible and desirable in terms of enhancing security in the Arctic (and globally). Because such a large proportion of the calls for Arctic arms control have centred around the concept of a nuclear weapon-free zone (NWFZ), a major part of the paper is devoted to this subject, beginning with a brief summary of past experience with such zones elsewhere in the world. The paper goes on to consider one specific proposal for an Arctic NWFZ which has a long, albeit checkered, history and uncertain future: that for Northern Europe (the so-called "Nordic" zone). It concludes that, contrary to the apparent expectations of some proponents of a broader Arctic arms control regime, the option of expanding or simply joining forces with a nascent Nordic zone is not a viable one.

The paper next addresses the topic of "demilitarization." Truly comprehensive demilitarization — analogous to that already in effect for Antarctica — is dismissed on much the same grounds as the