

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recently signed Soviet-American intermediate nuclear force (INF) accord underscores the central role that must be played in the arms control field by the two nuclear superpowers. It is now also widely recognized that both arms control and superpower agreements in this area are critical to international stability and security. Less widely appreciated, however, is the increasing importance of other nuclear and non-nuclear states to the international arms control process.

Partly because of the trend toward a diffusion of military power and the widespread development of "dual purpose" civilian technologies with potential military applications, many issues on the current international arms control agenda cannot be effectively resolved by the two superpowers alone. What is needed is a broader recognition of the importance of multilateral and Soviet-American bilateral arms control efforts. Multilateralism is necessary for the negotiation of arms control accords which would impose constraints upon the military programmes of nuclear and non-nuclear states alike; yet multilateral arms control diplomacy cannot succeed without Soviet-American leadership and a willingness on their part can provide lesser states with an opportunity to help strengthen superpower interests in arms control.

These attributes of multilateral arms control, particularly as they relate to the diplomatic behaviour of non-nuclear states, are examined in this case study of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament (CD). The CD is the principal multilateral negotiating forum for a number of arms control issues which relate in very real ways to international security. Uppermost