

Treaties and practices are in place to minimise the danger of escalation or surprise. Both sides know the rules of the game.

Introduction of nuclear weapons creates a new game. In South Asia, thinking about issues of nuclear management is well underway.<sup>26</sup> Canada, previously engaged with the military establishment of both states, could be effective in helping to adjust to the new defence requirements. It is an experienced player in the nuclear game.

A longer term policy option is to provide assistance to achieve the *technical controls* which the two states will need and want, and the *transparency* which the international community requires. In the present climate, Canada is not well positioned to provide such assistance. But in a changed environment, Canada is an ideal choice: technically advanced, non-threatening, with knowledge in depth on disarmament and control issues. A 'cooperation agenda on nuclear control and disarmament' is premature, but may come into play in the next stage of relations. The new nuclear states need it now; Canada may find a way to assist them to acquire it.

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<sup>26</sup> For a discussion see the edited volume by Air Commodore (ret), Jasjit Singh, *Nuclear India*, New Delhi: Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, July 1999. The opening essay contains a laboured explanation of why the tests are in support of development and why Mahatma Gandhi would have agreed to go nuclear ; the remainder are chapters examining technical aspects of the new nuclear situation.

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