

FOREWORD

During the autumn of 1988, the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security assembled a group of retired senior officials, and asked them to examine and discuss the impact of the changes within the Soviet Union on East-West relations. Because of their experience and the range of views represented within the group, we also asked them to write a report on the subject in order to share their thoughts and ideas with a wider audience.

Their deliberations continued during 1989 and early 1990, a period of vast upheaval in the Soviet Union and Europe, and consequent changes in the entire state of East-West relations. The group concluded their discussions in April, 1990, and submitted a report, "East-West Relations in Transition: Towards a New European Order", in mid-June. It is a wide-ranging and enlightening presentation of the major factors affecting East-West relations, as well as some of the likely effects of the new developments.

The full report, which is some 130 pages in length, is available in the library of the Institute, and will be made available on request. However, because of the wide interest in the subject, and the breadth of experience of the participants in the group, the Institute decided to publish sections of it for a larger audience. This Working Paper thus contains the introduction, alternative future scenarios, and conclusions of the longer report. In addition, and because of the intense interest in developments within the Soviet Union, we have included as an annex the chapter of the report on the Soviet Union.

I would like to pay tribute to the diligence of the group in completing a formidable task. They often had to survey and build upon shifting ground. The pace of change during the past year and a half has been remarkable; all analysts have had to adapt to changed and rapidly evolving sets of circumstances.

Bernard Wood
Chief Executive Officer
July 1990