

April 1991 did not produce the anticipated breakthrough in bilateral relations that might have led to Japanese agreement - at least in principle - on the need for regional security discussions. Neither Gorbachev nor Kaifu had the domestic political backing necessary to overcome the institutional and political obstacles blocking a World War II peace treaty.⁶ Gorbachev's new security proposals (the establishment of a five nation forum - USSR, USA, China, India and Japan - to discuss broad Asia Pacific issues; and USSR-USA-Japan trilateral discussions on regional security) were described by the Japanese as premature.

The Russian Federation has yet to deliver a major policy statement on Asia Pacific security matters, and it is unlikely to do so in the near future.

South Korea

Seoul has had a North Asia security dialogue proposal in play since October 1988, when President Roh Tae-Woo proposed a six nation (North and South Korea, Japan, China, USA and USSR) Consultative Conference for Peace during his address to the United Nations General Assembly. The proposal was general in nature and did not go into details. The President did say that the Conference could "...deal with a broad range of ideas concerning peace, stability, progress, and prosperity within the area." According to Korean sources, the initiative failed to receive support from North Korea and China, and was not pursued at the time.

President Roh referred to his proposal during an interview with TASS⁷ shortly before his December 1990 trip to the Soviet Union. In March 1991 the Korean newspaper Kukmin Ilbo reported the Government's moves to establish a six nation "international security body" to study Peninsular security issues.⁸ In his 29 June 1991 speech to the Hoover Institution, President Roh stated:

"...it is now time to design and frame a structure of cooperation which will ensure a higher dimension of peace, prosperity and happiness to people (of the Asia Pacific region)".⁹

There was some speculation that Seoul would use the occasion of its entry into the United Nations as an opportunity to flesh out the "six country" proposal, but the initiative, having been bypassed by events in the former Soviet Union and developments in North-South Korean relations, is no longer being pursued.

Mongolia

During the period 1986-1991, events in Mongolia reflected the changes taking place in Eastern Europe. Their emergence from the Soviet shadow coincided with an