

"c) The results of the aerial observations improved the performance of the teams when they were available to them.

"d) The remotely-controlled systems did not provide very convincing results. They could probably have been used more effectively had they been placed around some of the restricted access installations.

"e) The rules for evaluating the collected data were inadequate. The teams were not sufficiently coordinated. A precise and detailed methodology would have been needed for collecting and processing data on a day-to-day basis: since no such methodology existed, the conclusions to be drawn from this exercise remain unclear."¹⁰

Perhaps the most useful conclusion of the WEU paper is :

"...the success of verification operations requires a willingness on the part of the signatories and all their representatives to submit to controls with goodwill in complying with their undertakings."

Patricia Lewis observes that "the most important conclusion for negotiators and implementation groups is that inspectors, even those with a high degree of access, cannot be expected to report the items of inventory with 100 percent total accuracy."¹¹ This is particularly important given that such detailed examination of sites will be limited only to a sample of all the sites containing forces subject to limitation. It seems likely that such observations would apply in even stronger terms when the focus of the verification effort is on military personnel.

The MBFR Negotiations

The Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) negotiations made little headway in the area of verification of personnel levels. There were certain principles set out by each of the sides, but political considerations, including the inability of the sides to agree on basic numbers frustrated any real progress¹².

It is likely that the regrettable failure to complete an agreement after 15 years of MBFR, which foundered for many reasons, but was closely associated with the attempt to limit personnel, has inclined planners to regard the control of personnel as infeasible. However, conditions have changed drastically since the death of MBFR in 1989, and many things that were infeasible in the 1980s may be worthy of reconsideration in the present decade.