

In addition to academic involvement, the participation of other non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise in a number of areas has been sought. These workshops, and the subsequent NPCSD Conference to be held in the fall of 1992, will have a direct influence on the development of the Government's policy agenda.

The official track of the NPCSD is intended to explore the merits of establishing a multilateral, governmental, dialogue in the North Pacific. The continuing emphasis of the NPCSD is on consultation and consensus building to ensure that all avenues leading to a more prosperous and stable Asia Pacific are explored. Although the NPCSD is directed specifically to the North Pacific, Canada's concerns are not limited to this sub-region; neither is the NPCSD exclusionary, and Canada continues to exchange views on Asia Pacific security issues with concerned states. The focal point for NPCSD discussions has been the Policy Planning Staffs of the various Foreign Ministries.³

IV Recent Trends in Asia Pacific Security

The end of the Cold War has transformed the strategic architecture in Asia Pacific. The disappearance of a near to mid-term Soviet threat has brought with it both opportunities and challenges for regional actors, and has obliged governments to rethink the means and ends of regional security arrangements. Among the results of this rethinking have been a series of proposals designed to address regional security issues, including a restructuring of Asia Pacific institutions to take into account the changed strategic environment.

The Soviet Union

The first glimmering of what would lead to a fundamental shift in strategic thinking in the Asia Pacific was Gorbachev's July 28, 1986 Vladivostok speech.⁴ This was the first of a series of speeches, interviews and initiatives by the Soviets which came to be known as the "Vladivostok-Krasnoyarsk track",⁵ elements of which included the creation of a pan-Asian forum to be developed through:

- a series of meetings of foreign ministers from countries in the region with "major military capabilities";
- a pan-Asia foreign ministers' meeting, to be held in Vladivostok in 1993 and followed by a pan-Asian summit;
- regional consultations to be held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly;
- the establishment of an international centre for ocean communications;