INTRODUCTION

Though universally sought, peaceful coexistence in a disarmed world remains a will-o'-the wisp. And while the two superpowers took an important first step in 1987 with the INF Treaty, and may take an even more significant second one by agreeing to a fifty percent reduction in strategic arms, the gains will be more psychological than real. At the same time "disarming" reductions in strategic armaments are negotiated, new, more precise and more deadly weapons systems, now in the research, development and production stages, will by far outweigh any reductions.[1] These new weapons systems will be more destructive than their predecessors, and their advances in accuracy and lethality will continue unabated. In addition, there is the continuing real danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We have to recognize that the problem we are faced with is no longer a simple East-West confrontation. There are more actors who have to come to an agreement before disarmament could become a reality.

Given this situation, new avenues must be found which could reduce the risk of war. High on the list of such new approaches should be conflict-reduction in existing and potential conflict situations between secondary powers. The real danger is that such conflicts may escalate and involve the superpowers.

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1 Holly Zuckerman, Nuclear Illusion and Reality, collins, London, 1982. Robert S. McNamara, Blundering into Disaster, Pantheon Books, New York, 1986. New Left Review (ed.), Exterminism and Cold War, Verso, London, 1986. W. Arkin and R. Fieldhouse, Nuclear Battlefields, Ballinger, Cambridge, 1985. T. Cochran, W. Arkin, M. Hoenig, US Nuclear Forces and Capabilities, Ballinger, London, 1984. SIPRI Yearbook, World Armaments and Disarmament, Taylor and Francis, London, 1983 to 1986. Frank Barnaby, The Automated Battlefield, Sidgewick & Jackson, London, 1986.