

with other Central European nations, attempting to become neutral and acting as a credible buffer zone between East and West. This may become an attractive option.

The central feature of such a non-aligned, politically neutral association, consisting of Poland, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, would be its adoption of a credible and strong defensive-non-aggressive military posture. Such a non-aligned buffer zone could withstand political changes by either or both of the superpowers and the associated danger such changes might present. In addition, its economy could be geared for close cooperation among all of its participating nations. Although neither of the existing economic arrangements--Comecon and the EEC--need be abandoned in the short run, some larger economic accommodation might be negotiated for the region. In short, this association would have all the ingredients necessary to make it durable and viable, taking into account each member nation's need for security and economic growth. A review of the different proposals since the end of the Second World War will put the proposal in proper perspective.

The overall emphasis of these proposals--including those of the West German Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Karl George Pfleiderer (1952); the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko (1956); and the Polish Foreign Minister, Adam Rapacki (1957 and 1959)--has been the creation of a denuclearized Central European zone. The idea of a nuclear weapon-free zone was also proposed by the Commission on Disarmament and Security (under the chairmanship of Olof Palme) in its report published

⁵ Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues (US), Common Security: A Blueprint for Survival, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1982.