

ments — and not on peripheral matters of lesser importance to strengthening confidence among the broad masses of our peoples.

To illustrate: contacts between military personnel are useful to those who are in contact, but it is even more important that governments should have clear and timely information about the military activities of other states. To the extent that this same information is available to, and understood by, the population at large, the contribution to confidence will be the greater. Unlike other provisions of the Final Act, however, the significance of CBMs lies more in the voluntary disclosure of reassuring information than in the facilitation and development of closer contacts as such. Both are important, but the core is the military activities of states rather than that of individuals

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