

social, economic and technological developments and trends manifesting themselves throughout the international system.

In the last four years, East-West relations have taken a dramatic turn for the better. The improvement in relations is, in large measure, the result of the major changes Mikhail Gorbachev has brought to the domestic and foreign policies of the USSR. Understanding those changes, and their significance, is of great importance to the countries of the West and their leaders. The dramatic nature of Soviet policy changes and their impact on Eastern Europe have both challenged Western policy-makers and offered to them the most promising opportunity, since the Second World War, to put East-West relations on a co-operative rather than an adversarial footing.

Neither the degree of success likely to attend the new Soviet policies, nor their effects in Eastern Europe, nor the ways in which they will interact with Western policies to alter the course of East-West relations over time is as yet readily foreseeable. To illustrate the range of possibilities, scenarios of four conceivable outcomes are presented and discussed.

A stable East-West relationship, embracing the security of all the states involved, and founded on mutual respect and cooperation, rather than on mutual deterrence, has always been the goal of Western policy. A real opportunity now appears open to move a long way towards that goal. Conclusions as to how the West can best seize that opportunity are set out in the final section.

In all of its activities, the working group sought the widest possible measure of consensus among its members. There was, however, no attempt to achieve unanimity or to suppress differences of opinion. The individual members do not all agree with every word in the report, or with the particular emphasis given to one statement or another. All members do, however, agree with the approach taken in the report, and with the principal conclusions. Moreover, the views expressed in the report are those of the group and do not in any way represent those of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. All members of the group are most grateful for the support accorded to its task