

since the most dangerous threat to world peace and security in the next decade could well be the spread of nuclear weapons beyond the present five nuclear powers.

SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

Several features characterize the current state of superpower relations. The military balance between the United States and the Soviet Union, and more generally between East and West, has proven to be remarkably stable, although by no means static. The fundamental divisions between the two sides persist, of course, but there is no imminent danger of armed confrontation and there seems in fact to be a disposition on both sides to reach at least limited accommodations with regard to arms control and perhaps even regional issues.

The positive outcome of the last meeting of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev in Washington, and the signature by them of an agreement to eliminate intermediate-range missiles (INF) from their respective arsenals over the next three years, have given tangible evidence that both superpowers are ready to accept restraints on their military competition. In this way the indications of the earlier meeting in Reykjavik have been confirmed, that the superpowers have concluded that far-reaching nuclear arms control and disarmament measures will serve their mutual security interests.

Noteworthy is the fact that these promising developments have been impelled, on both sides, as much by domestic political forces as by the dynamics of the international situation. In the Soviet case, acceptance by Gorbachev of the need for internal economic reforms, and his related desire to limit defence spending and to bolster his position at home by diplomatic successes abroad, are evidently moving Soviet