

experience outside the Americas may be harmful.

Measures against the danger of surprise attack have been of importance.

Humanitarian issues such as search and rescue, conservation of fishing stocks, and related matters can be addressed in ways which not only help resolve the problems connected with them, but add to the general level of confidence between the two sides.

Common approaches, worked out to the mutual benefit of the parties, is better than 'going it alone' and this is important as the crucial issue of oil prospecting, not to mention the continued importance of international fishing of these waters, increasingly raises its head.

The success of such endeavours is vitally dependent on the political will to get confidence building on the agenda and then to keep the process going afterwards. Without the desire among key political figures to build a more positive wider bilateral relationship, the prospects for confidence building would have been limited indeed. With that desire in place those same prospects became impressive.

CBMs can help in this case to gain time for the parties to move forward in other ways to better relations generally, greater mutual confidence, and perhaps eventual negotiations on the thorny direct issues involved.

For the Inter-American Community

The high tensions of a major dispute involving one formal member of the inter-American community, and another which is present physically in the hemisphere with dependencies not only in the South Atlantic but also in the Caribbean (British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Monserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands), and the North Atlantic (Bermuda), while not by any means gone, have been markedly reduced through the use of confidence building measures.

The spin-offs of this situation are significant in other inter-American forums since the good will and flexibility shown have been noted by other regional actors.

Regional integration is in general something which favours reduced tensions and mutual confidence. But such bringing into closer contact of two societies may produce problems as well. As has been shown in the Colombia-Venezuela border development schemes, such efforts may heighten tensions in some ways as well as entice one to find solutions. In the Falklands case, fishing cooperation needs have had both positive and negative spin-offs for the wider confidence building going on among the three parties to the dispute, while the potential for oil related prosperity has so far had a tendency to add more subjects for dispute rather than assist in building confidence.