

PREFACE

Confidence building has become a prominent fixture in the international peace and security landscape. In part this is explained by the apparent success that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has enjoyed in easing tensions on that continent and in facilitating the peaceful transition from the Cold War era. In part it may be due also to the frustration that many policy makers and analysts feel with other security management approaches for dealing with the difficult conflicts of other regions of the world. Perhaps it reflects as well what may be currently fashionable in diplomatic circles. As such a prominent approach for addressing serious threats to international peace and security, confidence building warrants continued careful thought and analysis.

James Macintosh, an internationally recognized expert on the subject of confidence building, is well qualified to undertake a review of the basic thinking that underpins the approach. The author of a key study on the subject in 1985 entitled *Confidence (and Security) Building Measures in the Arms Control Process: A Canadian Perspective*, he has participated as an expert advisor on the Canadian delegations to several meetings in the context of the CSCE/OSCE, as well as explored confidence building in a variety of other regional contexts including the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East. Currently, he is engaged in a study on the utility of a confidence building approach in the Caribbean region. Mr. Macintosh has also contributed useful analyses of how confidence building measures may be applied in specific arms control contexts, including the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (the Inhumane Weapons Convention), and outer space.

In this report, Mr. Macintosh provides an insightful overview of the confidence building process. He offers some useful suggestions for improving the prospects of the successful application of confidence building. In view of the attention that this approach to security management has received and its potential utility, this report

provides a timely and valuable contribution to discussions in this field.

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