

hopes to see stability in the region's key states such as China and Indonesia; facilitates peaceful settlement of outstanding territorial disputes; and prevents the buildup of conventional arms and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Eventually, Canada's longer-term objectives are to establish effective regional and subregional frameworks for security; engage major powers in the region; and maintain a relevant Canadian voice in regional/subregional affairs. These are to be achieved through cooperative security, confidence building, transparency measures, and arms control verification.

### *Cooperative Security*

Cooperative security has become of catchword of the post-Cold War international relations discourse. With its emphasis on assurance rather than on deterrence, cooperative security recognizes that the changing nature of security renders the traditional approach -- the reliance on the preparation and use of military force -- less tenable in meeting effectively the emerging security challenges. It "seeks to devise agreed-upon measures to prevent war and to do so primarily by preventing the means for successful aggression from being assembled"<sup>9</sup> and consequently should be seen as "in essence, a commitment to regulate the size, technical composition, investment patterns, and operation practices of all military forces by mutual consent for mutual benefits."<sup>10</sup> It is hoped that this will prevent the adverse effects of a security dilemma where suspicions, secrecy, and the pursuit of absolute security only lead to intense arms races, uncertainties, and most probably actual conflicts as a result of the self-fulfilling prophecy, making it less secure for both (all) concerned.

Two central ideas and a number of key features constitute what would be considered the concept of cooperative security. The first is that threats to security are no longer military only. Indeed, many of these threats are increasingly diverse, multi-dimensional, and distinctly non-military. They may include economic underdevelopment, trade imbalances and disputes, irregular or even illicit migration of people, uncontrolled population growth, environmental degradation, conflicts over access to, and depletion of, natural resources key to economic development, drug trafficking, and human rights abuses. A second central idea is that the management of these issues can no longer rely on unilateral and/or bilateral measures alone but must seek multilateral efforts through the process of discussion, negotiation, cooperation, and compromise.<sup>11</sup>

Cooperative security approach also consists of a number of distinct features. It emphasizes assurance rather than deterrence, security with rather than against potential adversaries, with the understanding that security cannot be achieved at the expense of, or in isolation from, other players. It advocates a gradual approach, with dialogues rather

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<sup>9</sup> Janne E. Nolan, "The Concept of Cooperative Security," in Nolan, ed., *Global Engagement: Cooperation and Security in the 21st Century* (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1994), p.5.

<sup>10</sup> Ashton B. Carter, William J. Perry, and John D. Stenbruner, *A New Concept of Cooperative Security*, Brookings Occasional Papers (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1992), p.6.

<sup>11</sup> Dewitt, "Common, Comprehensive, and Cooperative Security."