

nuclear weapons in Europe. The Reagan administration has taken its time to formulate arms control policy and seems anxious to build up its military strength as a preliminary. Moscow has sounded more forthcoming, though it remains to be seen whether words will be matched by deeds. But the experience of arms negotiations makes one thing clear: there will be progress when the superpowers agree, and there is unlikely to be progress when they are at odds.

2. **The North-South dialogue.** The economic tensions between North and South, between the rich industrialized nations and the poorer developing nations, will be reflected in the UNSSOD II debates. There is an understandable tendency to argue that money spent on defence means less available for development. The relationship between disarmament and development will be examined in the report of a group of experts which will be submitted to the 36th session of the General Assembly in 1981.

3. **The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).** The review meeting in Madrid dragged on into mid-summer when it recessed until October. One question to be decided is the possibility of a Conference on Disarmament in Europe (CDE), and affecting that is the desirability of balance in the final recommendations. In other words, should proposals involving human rights be included as well as confidence-building measures (CBMs)? The Polish crisis has always loomed in the background at Madrid, and anything that puts the CSCE process in jeopardy could have consequences outside Europe.

4. **The Middle East.** Always a potential flash point, this area seemed headed for one of its more dangerous crises as 1981 developed. Will the new government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin be more militant and uncompromising? Will Washington continue to supply Israel with military equipment? Will it impose tighter conditions? Will the Soviet Union commit itself more openly to the Arab cause, especially the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)? What will be the effect of Israel's pre-emptive attack on the nuclear reactor in Iraq?