

I would like to make clear what it is and what it is not, that we are promoting through these proposals:

1. We are not proposing dialogue or consultative arrangements or institutions for their own sake;
2. We are not proposing to diminish or cut across existing arrangements which have proven so successful - such as ASEAN - or others which are just now developing - such as APEC. If anything we want to see these strengthened and expanded. We are not out to fix what "ain't broke".
3. We are not proposing new military alliances for this region. Existing ones, including the American military and usual presence in this region, have worked well. We are not advocating any unilateral down-sizing of these. However, if some progress can be made towards enhanced confidence and security-building measures in this region, that would ease the burden on American resources and that would presumably be welcomed.
4. The USSR under President Gorbachev, has demonstrated a new reasonableness in its foreign policy in Europe. It has in the past put forward suggestions - most notably in Mr. Gorbachev's Krasnoyarsk and Vladisvostok speeches - to reduce tension in this region. Now that progress has been made in enhancing European security and cooperation we think it timely to test the intentions and good-will of the Soviets in this part of the world.
5. Asia and the Pacific, to be sure, is not Europe. It is as unique as in Europe. What has worked in Europe may not necessarily work in this part of the world and we fully recognize that.