

Naturally, with that background, we note some of the differences between what might be called the "Atlantic experience" and the "Pacific experience".

One remarkable feature of the Asian economic experience is that prosperity has been secured without formal institutional arrangements. Europe had to form a Common Market; North America a Free Trade Agreement. There is no Pacific 1992. There is no Pacific Free-Trade Agreement. There is no Pacific OECD. What has been accomplished here has been accomplished through the efforts of individual states and individual enterprises, albeit with remarkable economic integration.

But - with the singular and very important exception of ASEAN - that economic integration has not been matched regarding political and security questions.

In many ways, the geopolitics of the nuclear age have been played out in Europe, with Asia bearing the consequences. Asia has been a recipient of Cold War antagonisms. It has seldom been a donor. Regional conflicts have been fought in Asia - in Korea, Vietnam and Cambodia - for reasons of Cold War ideology. but there has not been a structure of security cooperation, or of traditional military Alliances, or of regional political institutions.

The Cold War is over in Europe. It is not yet clear, however, if the Cold War is over in Asia.

Equally, ideology is diminishing as a source of contention between East and West. However, in a variety of situations in Asia and the Pacific region, ideologies survive and thrive, threatening regional and indeed global security.

It is precisely because the Cold War is over in Europe that we should intensify the search for durable peace in the Pacific. That is for at least three reasons. First, if the new Soviet foreign policy has now led to real peace in Europe, we must press the Soviets to see if Mr. Gorbachev's sincerity in Europe finds a parallel in the Pacific. We must test that sincerity, probe his intentions, match proposal with counterproposal. It is possible, of course, that we will be disappointed. But disappointment without having tried is indefensible.