

### 3.3.1 The Negotiation Process (Continued)

far more open and less controlled (or controllable) negotiations. In addition, multilateral negotiations have been favored in conditions where one of the aims of the talks is the improvement of general political relations between a particular set of states.

For example, the ongoing talks on conventional force reductions in Europe (the MBFR negotiations) are of necessity multilateral (although conducted on a bloc-to-bloc basis) given that the territory and troops of states other than the Superpowers are under negotiation. Similarly, the recently convened Conference on Disarmament in Europe (the CDE) is by its very nature multilateral both in substance and geographic scope. Moreover, a primary purpose of both sets of negotiations is political, rather than strategic, and narrowly defined. This political effect is to a large extent a function of the multilateral nature of the talks themselves in terms of broad East-West dialogue and confidence building.

There is in addition an alternate hybrid pattern of negotiation which has been followed in some contexts. In situations where the subject matter(s) under negotiation has a clear multilateral dimension (as a result of prevailing or projected deployment patterns, territorial considerations, etc.), but where the US and USSR determine that central strategic interests are at stake, a 2-track process has developed: formal, multilateral talks have been supplemented by private bilateral approaches.

Chemical weapons arms control illustrates this pattern. The proliferation of existing or projected capabilities requires the involvement of states other than the Superpowers in negotiating any meaningful chemical weapons arms control measures. At the same time, a high proportion of the chemical weapons stockpile is owned by the Superpowers and the strategic implications of these assets for deterrence in Central Europe are considered central by both states. Hence, while multilateral negotiations proceed in Geneva at the CDE, the US has sought private, bilateral talks with the USSR.