

ASEAN has also experienced a number of joint military exercises which do not appear to have been a part of the Helsinki regime. These joint exercises have once again been voluntary and bilateral. Much of the same activities existed within the parameters of each of NATO and the Warsaw Pact alliances. All of these countries are members of the CSCE.

DIFFERENCES

This unfortunately appears to be where the similarities between the two organizations end. Given the past success of the Helsinki process, many, including Mikhail Gorbachev, have suggested that the CSCE should be used as model for future confidence-building and arms control in South-East Asia. There seems, however, to be little evidence that this is possible or practical.

Although the concept of confidence-building may be applicable in the South-East Asian region,

because of different historical and political conditions, it is certainly not possible automatically to transfer the positive experience gained from CSBM's in Europe to other regions of the world. A peace and security order for a region must from the first instance always emanate from that region itself and take account of the specific local interests and circumstances.⁵⁹

Hence, the concrete character of confidence-building in South-East Asia will necessarily differ from that of Europe due to different historical, political and geostrategic conditions in each region.

It can be argued that the success of confidence-building and arms control within the CSCE process was largely attributable to Europe's unique historical and political circumstances, such as the West German policy of Ostpolitik, the flowering of detente during the 1970's and the rise to power of General Secretary Gorbachev.⁶⁰ In fact, the entire European situation during the Post World War II

⁵⁹ Josef Holik, "Underpinnings and Adaptability of European CSBM Concepts", in Disarmament Topical Papers 7 Confidence and Security-building Measures: From Europe to Other Regions. New York, United Nations, 1991, pg. 11.

⁶⁰ Trevor Findlay, "Confidence-Building Measures for Asia/Pacific, Working Paper No. 55", Canberra, National University of Australia, 1988.