



CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

The term “confidence-building measure” (CBM) lends itself to many different interpretations. As used here, it refers primarily to measures affecting the *employment* of military forces, especially in peacetime, circumscribing their operations rather than actually reducing or doing away with them altogether. CBMs in this context fall into two principal categories: 1) the type of measures negotiated at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in the mid-1970s and since, which provide for advance notification and mutual observation of military exercises and movements, and may also involve restrictions on the frequency and/or size of such activities (including their prohibition in certain areas or beyond a certain threshold); and 2) so-called “strategic CBMs”, such as those agreed to between the superpowers in the course of the SALT and START negotiations, including the exchange of data regarding their strategic forces, prior notification of certain ballistic missile test launches, and so forth; an earlier instance was the “Hot Line” establishing a direct communications link between the superpowers’ respective capitals.

Arctic territories within Europe are already subject to the provisions of those CBMs now in force. Thus, for example, the Soviet Arctic as far east as the Ural Mountains has fallen within the scope of CSCE confidence-building measures, as a result of the Stockholm Agreement of 1986. More far-reaching measures of this type have long been proposed for the vicinity of the Norwegian-Soviet border, as well as for naval activities in the strategically critical Norwegian Sea area, the site of massive naval exercises by both sides in the