

Despite the perceptual problems, the role of interested third parties in promoting regional security should not be underestimated. One of the oldest formal agreements between India and Pakistan, the Indus Water Treaty, was negotiated and signed on 19 September 1960 after agreed-upon mediation by a third party, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Current diplomatic efforts to limit development of WMD and to discourage ballistic missile development, acquisition, and deployment should be continued. A consistent point of view by many countries on the subject of nonproliferation, including support for all the existing and proposed nonproliferation measures and restrictions, will contribute to globalizing a norm against ballistic missile proliferation.

Interested countries, regional organizations, and international institutions could play an important role in increasing the number of activities (governmental- and privately-sponsored seminars, conferences, workshops) in which representatives of India and Pakistan participate in discussions of the concept of transparency, the role of transparency measures, and the development of verifiable CBMs/CSBMs. Representatives of concerned, neutral countries and international organizations, such as the United Nations, can provide encouragement in the form of discussion of their positive experiences in the field of confidence-building. Discussion, even debate, of increased transparency measures in regard to South Asian nuclear and ballistic missile programs should be encouraged and fostered.

Invitations to cooperative monitoring experiments would provide India, Pakistan, and even China with demonstrations on how a regional cooperative monitoring center could function, and how it could assist in defusing potential crises.

Summary

Addressing regional instability is critically important for international peace and stability. Among the many causes of regional instability, the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering conventional and WMD warheads on both military and civilian targets is one of the most destabilizing events in recent years.

Regional security in South Asia has been directly affected by the tensions which dominate the political and military relations between India and Pakistan. Ironically, both countries have similar security concerns: both countries are concerned about a larger neighbor. As U.S. Secretary of Defence Perry has pointed out: "Pakistan believes that it needs its nuclear program as a deterrent not only to India's nuclear capability, but also to India's conventional superiority. . . . India wants to retain its nuclear capability to deter the Chinese military, which is superior to India's both in nuclear and conventional capability."⁴⁸ National prestige is also a strong motivation for the development of nuclear capability and

⁴⁸ "Establishing Strong Security Ties with India and Pakistan," op. cit.