

It is of interest to note that the nature of the restructuring process demonstrates that reasonable defensive sufficiency (as a military concept) can actually include increases in certain discreet systems, based on the assumption that these are acceptable if they enhance the defensive capability of the forces involved. For example, there was movement towards the replacement of tank regiments with motorized rifle regiments (with increases in infantry fighting vehicles, probably redeployed from the Soviet Union to Eastern Europe), and planned increases in mine-laying, field fortifications, anti-tank missiles and guns, and anti-aircraft capabilities.⁸⁶

Operational Planning

It is especially at the level of operational planning that changes are required to demonstrate movement towards a defensive doctrine based on sufficiency. There has been much debate about the role of the counteroffensive in a new defensive doctrine.⁸⁷ Prior to 1989 there was continued reference to the need to carry out counteroffensive operations within the context of defensive battles.⁸⁸ While this question is by no means settled, statements by Akhromeyev have implicitly acknowledged Western anxieties on this issue. He stated that the Soviet armed forces are planning for long defensive operations, and would not launch a counterattack until after three to four weeks. The wording of his comments suggest that a counteroffensive, the aim of which would be to move the battle

⁸⁶ On motorized rifle regiments see: Karber and Arner, "The Gorbachev Unilateral Reductions", p. 3; Statement of Warner, p. 4. And also see: Burlakov, "In New Conditions"; and interview with Army General B. Snetkov: "*V usloviyakh sokrashcheniya*" (In the Condition of the Reductions), *Krasnaya Zvezda*, 23 March 1989, p. 2.

⁸⁷ A distinction is made between counterattacks and counterstrikes which occur at the tactical level, and counteroffensives which take place at the operational level and are associated with offensive military planning.

⁸⁸ See for example, the comments of Col. Gen. S. A. Dikov in the panel discussion on Moscow television: "Restructuring and the Armed Forces", 5 December 1988 in *FBIS-SU*, 9 December 1988, p. 80. See also: Alexei Arbatov, "Reasonable Sufficiency: where does it end?", *New Times*, (17), 25 April to 1 May 1989, p. 12. He describes the question of counteroffensive operations as the "key dilemma of the defensive doctrine".