

whether its desire for stability is reason enough to allow the Russians relatively free reign in areas of the former Soviet Union. Given that the Russians are going to intervene to maintain calm on their borders anyhow, Canada believes it is better that the CSCE claim a right and responsibility to keep watch over them than to turn a blind eye.

A further issue has to do with improving the effectiveness of CSCE conflict prevention missions. The report promised by Canada at the Rome meeting has been completed. It contains several suggestions for improving mission effectiveness, which Canada will be pursuing in the run-up to Budapest.

A broader issue involves the future of the military-security negotiations under the aegis of the Forum for Security Cooperation. Proposed Russian amendments to the CFE Treaty risk unravelling the fragile compromise of Treaty provisions. A weakened CFE Treaty would undermine confidence in the secure and stable balance of conventional forces that has facilitated the CSCE's conflict prevention work.

The Human Dimension

In the human dimension as in Basket I, there is no need for new institutional machinery. The task is to get states to use the existing machinery and to react adequately in cases where it is used. Canada would like to see the human dimension instruments become vehicles for constructive self-analysis rather than for finger-pointing, e.g. participating states should be encouraged to identify where they might be having difficulties in developing domestic legislation to implement human dimension commitments. To this end, Canada would like to try to make the human dimension mechanism more accessible and less tainted; currently, it is difficult for states to engage the mechanism in a constructive way (e.g. self-invocation for the purpose of securing CSCE assistance), since using it is tantamount to admitting a human rights problem exists. In addition, Canada wants to broaden the HCNM's mandate; currently, he can only become involved if a situation involves national minorities and if there is a potential for conflict. Again, this leads to a stigma that inhibits positive use of his office.

Cooperation with Other Organizations

The CSCE has the best-developed relationship with the UN of any regional organization, including letters of understanding, provision for observer status and regular consultation. In Canada's view, the challenge now is to operationalize that cooperation. Canada also wants further development of the operational relationship between the CSCE and NATO and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC). The CSCE's relationship with the EC -- now the European Union (EU) -- is rather more problematic for Canada. The EU's increasingly assertive approach to European security issues means that the West Europeans bring well-crafted and supported positions to the CSCE table; however, it also results in a certain rigidity in EU positions and a growing tendency for the EU agenda to become the CSCE agenda.

Other

Canada is pursuing other issues in the run-up to Budapest, including consolidation of the CSCE's institutional framework. For example, Canada has proposed that CSCE review