

part through a subjective examination of the dynamics of the region under study.

Historically, there has always been a tacit degree of maritime cooperation in the Middle East through requirements for cross-border trade, transportation (including pilotage, vessel traffic management, and ship safety in recent years), fishing, and resource exploitation. The working relationships implicit in such cooperation function largely outside the complex realm of formal state-to-state politics. Military operations at sea in the Middle East, however, reflect more the political factors as opposed to the traditional customs observed by mariners. This tends to isolate regional navies from each other rather than draw them together. Incorporating traditional maritime procedures into the naval dimension of Middle East politics thus holds the promise of confidence-building between participating states. This paper will examine the prospects for such measures.

SUMMARY OF NAVAL CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES (NCBMS)

A background paper on NCBMs prepared by the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies in September 1993 identified three categories of measures:

- (1) **Information and Communication Measures**, intended to increase the transparency of military plans and activities, can be further categorized into:
 - information measures, such as: publication of naval force information and naval weapon system development, exchanges of schedules of naval activities (naval calendars), and personnel exchanges;