

Finally, and more recently, there has been another demonstration, this time rather unexpected, of the Soviet acceptance of the principle of asymmetric responses within the CFE negotiations. In February 1990, Gorbachev agreed to a proposal by Bush to reduce U.S. and Soviet troops in Central Europe to 195,000, while allowing the U.S. to maintain an extra 30,000 troops in Europe.¹⁰² Acceptance of these figures commits the Soviet Union to a reduction of 375,000 troops, and the U.S. to a reduction of 80,000 (with overall WTO/NATO levels left unclear at present).

From the above it can be seen that the principle of reasonable sufficiency has provided a broad framework for the Soviet approach to the CFE negotiations. The prospect of asymmetrical reductions has perhaps been more palatable, and reciprocity appreciated to a greater degree, given the existence of the concept and its supporting ideas.

4. The Revolutions In Eastern Europe and "Enforced Unilateralism"

Despite the importance that the Soviet Union continues to attach to the formal negotiation process, there is much to suggest that the pace of events in Eastern Europe has only served to reinforce the already existing trends towards unilateral actions (reductions and restructuring), and ultimately may contribute to the increasing irrelevance of the conventional arms control process in Europe,¹⁰³ and even the concept of

¹⁰² Paul Lewis, "West and Soviets Agree With 2 Germans On Rapid Schedule For Unification Talks; Gorbachev Accepts Bush's Troop Ceiling", *New York Times*, 14 February 1990, p. 1. It is quite possible that Gorbachev may have received something in return for his compromise, something which is as yet unknown (perhaps greater Western flexibility on the question of aircraft).

¹⁰³ There are other reasons why conventional arms control may become increasingly irrelevant after CFE. These negotiations are dealing with the elimination of approximately 120,000 individual pieces of equipment, not to mention a huge number of personnel, all of which will be subject to some of the most elaborate verification procedures ever put in place. The extraordinary technical complexity of these tasks will take a long time to come to full realization, and may thwart enthusiasm for embarking on a further conventional arms control regime in addition
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