

Preface and Acknowledgements

Do underlying cultural differences have an impact on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament (NACD) processes? By this is meant not simply differences on specific policy issues, but more fundamental divergence of view about motivations, events and their contexts that result from disparate philosophical, ethical or cultural traditions. Culturally derived conceptual lenses often seem to matter because the way in which a problem is "framed" can have an effect on how it is tackled and resolved. If true, then reaching agreement across such cultural divides may involve a process of dialogue and ultimately the transformation of perceptions and *weltanschauungen*.

Clearly, however, the significance of cultural factors will vary considerably depending on the specific issues, forums, governments and individuals involved. Moreover, defining what is meant by "culture" and ascertaining the diffuse nature of its impact on attitudes and behaviour are challenging endeavours.

Many, if not most, of today's NACD processes, concepts and areas of interest evolved primarily in the context of the Cold War and, are in large measure, Western in origin. They have not necessarily taken root easily when efforts have been made to export them to different regional contexts or to new multilateral forums. Gaining a better understanding of the role that culture may play in NACD dialogues will never provide an explanatory panacea, but might provide some insight into a neglected dimension of the non-proliferation and arms control agenda as well as some helpful insight for policy-makers and negotiators in their practical efforts in various NACD contexts. From a Canadian perspective, this could be especially important, given Canada's active participation in a wide range of multilateral forums including regional ones, and its traditional pursuit of compromise between East and West, North and South.

With these aims in mind, Professor Keith Krause of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland was invited under the Department of Foreign Affairs' Verification Research Program to undertake a study to explore the cross-cultural dimensions to the NACD dialogue and the impact this may have on multilateral negotiations. With the organizational assistance of York University's Centre for International and Security Studies, Dr. Krause assembled a study team of experts on regional security affairs, including:

- Dr. Amitav Acharya, Centre for International and Security Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada;
- Dr. Gabriel Ben-Dor, Department of Political Science, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel;
- Major-General (ret.) Ahmed Fakhr, National Centre for Middle East Studies, Cairo, Egypt;
- Dr. Hal Klepak, Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Canada;
- Dr. Andrew Latham, Centre for International and Security Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada; and
- Dr. Jing-dong Yuan, Institute of International Relations, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

The team's expertise provided a range of regional perspectives, thus permitting an eclectic mix of case studies. Participants came together in November 1996 in Ottawa, Canada to agree on a working definition of "security culture" and on the parameters of the study. Individual contributions were prepared, commented upon and refined through the skilful leadership and editing of Dr. Krause, and they