

Long-term Security

Another goal of conventional arms control and disarmament in Europe is the development of a security regime which could replace the existing military confrontation. As in the past, negotiations will aim for long-term security.

Over the years, long-term security has had two components. One is a political order which could replace the current state of military confrontation. This would be a broad framework involving economic, humanitarian as well as political considerations. The second component is an institutional framework which would be required to implement the arms control and disarmament agreement. The latter would have an impact on the former.

Long-term security was important during the period leading up to the beginning of the MBFR talks because simultaneously the process of initiating the CSCE was taking place. The Harmel Report had underlined the importance of achieving "a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe accompanied by appropriate security guarantees".⁶⁵ Also, it was a time when some cooperation between East and West was envisaged in furthering détente in Europe. Canada saw the MBFR talks as part of the process "aimed at lowering tensions and increasing East-West cooperation particularly in Europe".⁶⁶ A Canadian objective was "to play an active and constructive role in the consolidation of peace in Europe and in current efforts to contribute to East-West détente".⁶⁷

⁶⁵ "The Future Tasks of the Alliance," Report to the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council, 13-14 December 1967. Achievement of a new political order has been one of the purposes of NATO since its inception in 1949.

⁶⁶ George K. Grande, "Statement at the Preparatory Consultation on MBFR," Department of External Affairs, Statement and Speeches No. 49, 15 May 1973.

⁶⁷ George K. Grande, "Statement by the Head of the Canadian Delegation," 30 October 1973.