

questions for which there are no easy answers. The issue also appears ripe for rushing toward premature policy conclusions if due caution is not exercised.

2. The Concept of "National Security"

There is no international consensus on the scope of what constitutes a national security issue, and the mention of environmental stress-national security linkages is likely to mean very different things to different people. It is important for users of the term to be conscious of their own understanding of the concept, as well as to seek greater awareness of how others may be interpreting it. Differences in view are also likely to arise because of the lack of transparency surrounding the causation of environmental stress and national security. While most, if not all, would agree that the environment is only one of many factors that contribute to national security, when national security is defined in a broad sense there would likely be disagreement on the extent to which environmental factors contribute or are threats to national security. This is important, as where national security is placed on the definitional continuum (strictly interstate armed military conflict on one end of the continuum, and social-economic well-being at the other) influences the analytical scope of the interface with the environment.

2.1 National Security Broadly Defined

Views of what constitutes "national security" are evolving. A number of people have proposed defining national security in a manner that would take into account a wide range of social and environmental considerations.³ In so doing, the concept of national security takes account of a wide set of national interests, and embodies the concept of economic security and economic interests. The broad concept of national security encompasses the idea of well-being, and that factors which may have a negative effect on the well-being of a country's citizens may legitimately be considered national security issues. In this context, acid rain in Canada brought about by emissions from factories in the U.S. would be a national security issue. Similarly, and less often recognized, domestic pollution would be a national security issue.

The broad definition of national security is analogous to what the United

³See Richard H. Ullman, "Redefining Security," International Security, Vol. 8, No.1, Summer 1983; Jessica Tuchman Mathews, "Redefining Security", Foreign Affairs, Vol. 68, No.2, 1989; and Ian Rowlands, "The Security Challenges of Global Environmental Change", The Washington Quarterly, Winter 1991.