

a ruse to gain a temporary military advantage, the tremendous risks of such a strategy, e.g., loss of international credibility, coupled with, at best, fleeting strategic benefits, make this a highly improbable contingency. Thus, in all but extreme circumstances, the signatories to a treaty will be acceptably reliable and will not, as a matter of habit, intentionally try to circumvent the treaty. However, this does not preclude infractions arising from negligence, loose organizational control, etc. Violations may occur that are unintentional but, nevertheless, disrupt the treaty environment.

Thus, the objective of the verification regime is to deter on a routine, daily basis such inadvertent yet militarily significant treaty violations. The model presented in later sections of the paper offers some insight into the operational factors that influence the effectiveness of verification systems in meeting this objective. But first, the elements of a possible CFE verification regime, derived from a survey of recent conventional arms control proposals, will be described.

Notes

1. The Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is one of two sets of discussions proceeding within the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) process, the second being the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. The former concentrates on strengthening stability in Europe through reductions in conventional armed forces, the elimination of force disparities, and the elimination of capabilities for surprise attack and initiating large-scale offensives. The latter focuses on confidence-building measures that reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe. Although procedurally separate, the substance of the two negotiations is closely linked, and progress in one (or the lack thereof) will inevitably reverberate in the other. Both will be reviewed in the Helsinki Follow-Up Meeting beginning 24 March 1992.
2. Mandate for Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe," in *CSCE: A Framework for Europe's Future* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Information Agency, 1989), p. 44.
3. Twenty-three countries are represented in these discussions: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Soviet Union, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.