

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As Canada prepares to host the next summit of the seven leading industrialized countries, it is timely for Canadians to review the international security situation and to assess the impact on Canada and the implications for Canadian policies, of current and future developments. There have been significant events in the evolution of East-West relations, and in particular the relations between the superpowers, and more can be anticipated. These in turn are having an influence on the state of the Atlantic Alliance and the strategic doctrine of NATO. Strategy and technology are also in flux in respect to the defence of North America and Canada's role in it. In other regions of the world there are actual and potential conflicts which can affect Canada directly or indirectly. And the prospects for arms control and disarmament have an important bearing on Canadian security interests and policies.

There are two concurrent developments which deserve special attention. One is the convergence of interests of the United States and the Soviet Union in favour of restraining their rivalry, negotiating arms control agreements and perhaps even limiting regional conflicts. This convergence owes as much to the domestic pressures operating, though for different reasons, on both sides as to any international dynamic, however, and its future evolution is therefore vulnerable to the vagaries of internal politics in both countries. Moreover, it does not necessarily coincide fully with the interests of the allies on both sides. It is therefore likely that both the United States and the Soviet Union are going to face increasing complications in their respective relations with their allies.