



US soldiers at a base in Mutlangen, West Germany, dismantle the radar section of a Pershing II missile, being withdrawn under the terms of the INF Treaty. The INF Treaty is an example of a disarmament agreement. US Information Agency photo 88-1219-C

country might be tempted to fire its ICBMs first, fearing if it didn't "use them" it would "lose them." Many people argue that agreements that encourage countries to base their long-range missiles at sea rather than on land contribute to stability. For example, the SALT agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union froze the number of those countries' ICBM and SLBM launchers at existing levels, but permitted an increase in SLBMs if an equal number of ICBMs or older SLBMs were dismantled.

3. By reducing the probability that accident or crisis will lead to war.

ACD agreements that restrict destabilizing weapons will do this. In addition, there are a number of arms control agreements designed to prevent incidents that might lead to crisis or war, and to improve communications between countries in accident or crisis situations. One example is the "accident measures" agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, which provides, among other things, for improvements in both sides' safety procedures to prevent the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons.

Another example is the "hot line" agreement between these same two countries, which makes sure that a quick and reliable communications link exists between the US and Soviet leaders in the event it is needed. Canada and the Soviet Union recently signed an agreement on the prevention of incidents at sea, to prevent accidents involving their navies.

4. By encouraging communication.

There is a lot to be said for just plain talking. Negotiations among countries on almost any important issue tend to make war less likely. The two sides have a chance to understand each other's concerns and motivations more clearly. A sense of cooperation may develop as the two sides move towards the common goal of an agreement. Once an ACD agreement is signed, regular communication and cooperation between the parties is usually needed to make sure that the terms of the agreement are being lived up to.

Conclusion

ACD can thus help to prevent wars, by lessening tensions and uncertainties

Forecast

A list of arms control and disarmament activities involving Canada, May through September, 1990.

April 23 - May 4: Third NPT Preparatory Committee, Geneva

April 23 - May 12: Open Skies Conference, Budapest

May 7 - 29: United Nations Disarmament Commission, New York

May 17: CFE Round 7 opens, Vienna

May 21: CSBM Negotiation Round 7 opens, Vienna

May 28 - June 8: PTBT Amendment Conference Organizational Meeting, New York

June - August: CD summer session, Geneva

August 20 - September 14: Fourth Review Conference of the NPT, Geneva

related to weapons and military forces themselves. However, some types of wars, such as revolutionary struggles, are less easy to control through ACD. Other methods must be used, in addition to ACD, to deal with wars that are more directly the result of conflicting ideas or of rival claims to resources.

Also, not all proposed ACD measures are likely to lead to peace. Measures that are one-sided, or that leave out important military powers or categories of weapons, can increase the likelihood of war. To be effective, ACD measures should be negotiated among all of the countries directly affected. There should also be an agreed way of checking that the other side is in fact doing what it has said it will do. This last concept is known as verification and was discussed in "Focus" in *Bulletin* No. 10.

So, when we are asked what Canada is doing for peace, it is fair to point to our ACD efforts. But it is also important to remember that ACD can only encourage, not guarantee, peace, and that our efforts to deal with other, underlying causes of tension and war are just as important.