

forces at lower levels".⁶⁰ Specifically, the threat to stability has been identified as "the dominant presence in Europe of the conventional armed forces of the Soviet Union", and the Warsaw Pact superiority in "key conventional weapons systems" combined with the asymmetries which have been mentioned in the preceding chapter.⁶¹

The goal of stability, must be applied to all weapon systems in the aggregate. Stability would be enhanced through a balance in conventional forces, but nuclear weapons must also be addressed. Deterrence has been achieved through, and will continue to require, an adequate mix of nuclear and conventional forces, not least because "only the nuclear element can confront a potential aggressor with an unacceptable risk".⁶² In Prime Minister Mulroney's words, "neither Western Europe nor North America nor both together can maintain an effective and stable military balance between East and West by conventional means alone".⁶³

Stability means that there is a reduced likelihood of the outbreak of conflict or, if deterrence fails, that the conflict can be brought to an end with a minimum of violence. Stability can be achieved at a higher or lower level of forces. If achieved at a lower level, stability may, over a period of time, have beneficial effects beyond the prevention of war.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ Brussels Declaration, 11 December 1986, paragraphs 1 and 6.

⁶¹ "Conventional Arms Control: The Way Ahead," 2 March 1988, paragraphs 1 and 2.

⁶² *Ibid.*, paragraph 5.

⁶³ "Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Statement on the Reagan-Gorbachev Summit," Office of the Prime Minister, Ottawa, 10 December 1987, p. 3.

⁶⁴ For a discussion of different kinds of stability see George Lindsey's testimony to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, Issue No. 58, 17 February 1982, pp. 5-15; and Joachim Krause, Prospects for Conventional Arms Control in Europe, Occasional Papers Series No. 8, Institute for East-West Security Studies, New York, 1988, pp. 9-10.