

Number 5

April 1986

## CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE

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SEP 12 1986

*There is potential for significant developments in European arms control negotiations in 1986. A Western initiative in MBFR at the end of 1985 has already injected dynamism into those long moribund talks and there are indications that an agreement on Confidence and Security-building Measures will emerge by the end of the summer in the separate negotiations in Stockholm. Although some points of detail in this paper may thus be overtaken by events, the more basic description and comments should remain valid.*

One of the legacies of the heyday of detente in the early 1970's is a multilateral East-West dialogue focusing on conventional arms control in Europe. These talks provide two important forums for Canadian participation in negotiations on conventional arms control and disarmament.

To begin, it is useful to place the deliberations in perspective. The concentric circles in Figure 1 illustrate the inter-relationships of the various global and regional forums.

The outer ring represents the two organs that address disarmament affairs at United Nations headquarters in New York. Both are deliberative bodies that do not themselves negotiate instruments of arms control. The functions of the two are, in part, similar. Each debates issues of arms control; during the process all concerned gain an understanding of the positions and preoccupations of others. In the Assembly, resolutions are tabled and voted upon, some of which recommend action to be taken in negotiations. That more specific function, in a global context, is carried out by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva — the second ring — where delegations from 40 countries, representative of all the various groupings with the United Nations, are assembled.

The next two rings represent the regional conferences in Europe that are the main subject of this paper. CSCE stands for Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The United States and Canada participate along with 33 European countries. The conference consists of all NATO and Warsaw Pact countries and all the neutral and non-aligned in Europe except Albania. (See list of participants appended to this paper.) MBFR stands for Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions. Delegations from countries of the two military alliances meet in Vienna, and are charged with negotiating mutual reductions in their conventional forces in central Europe.

Finally, the innermost circle represents the bilateral negotiations between the US and the USSR on nuclear and space arms.

Working inward, from the broad international concerns of the UN, to the attempts to reduce European conventional forces, to the central issue of

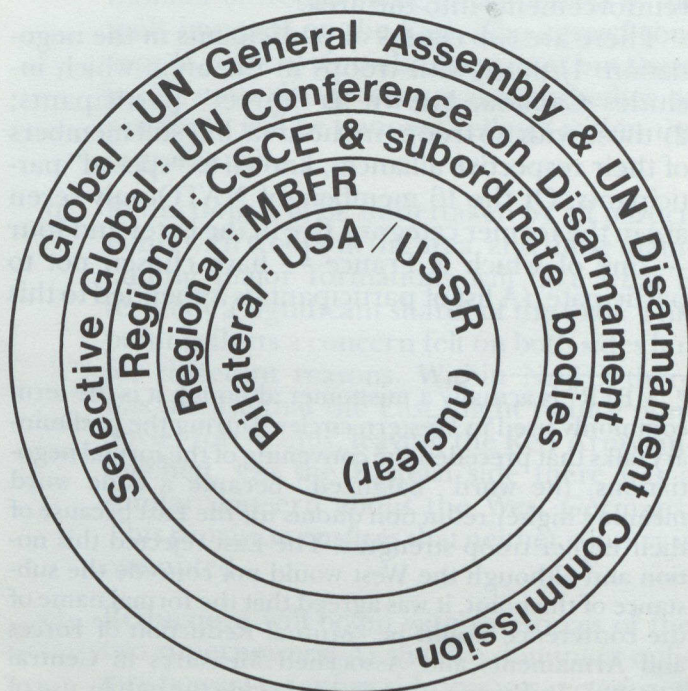


Figure 1.

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