

THEORIES OF REGIME AND THIRD-PARTY MEDIATION

Professor Fen Hampson (CIIPS)

Professor Hampson began his presentation by noting that the last workshop had dealt with the question: "what role can third parties play to help bring about an end to military hostilities in regional conflicts in the Third World?". Whereas the last workshop addressed the conditions for successful mediation, the current workshop was explained to be an attempt to "focus on the conditions for bringing about viable regional security regimes in Third World conflicts" and asks the question, "how, over time, [might] third parties help foster levels of cooperation among regional adversaries, reduce tensions, and promote a redefinition of the conflict?". It was stressed that one of the principal aims of the workshop was to consider the range of potential policy responses to regional conflict management, which would require "third-party intervention" to be understood in its broadest sense, with mediation being but one response (other examples cited were peace keeping, monitoring compliance and development and economic assistance). Informal means of intervention were also noted as important considerations. In short, "we should not be limited by a narrow conception of mediation in the present workshop."

The Concept of Regime

The central issue under consideration was the applicability of the notion of regime to regional conflict and issues of conflict management. As a starting point, the commonly accepted definition of international regime was cited: "the formal and informal norms, rules, and principles for regulating behaviour between states in conflict." This notion was further developed by reference to Robert Jervis' definition of