

CFE from the fruitless MBFR talks.⁹⁸ The CFE method moves away from an emphasis on making equal reductions, to one of asymmetrical reductions aimed at establishing final equal levels. The paradox of this situation involves the Soviet insistence (for obvious reasons of political bargaining) that, in fact a state of parity or rough equality currently exists in the conventional balance. However, because it is a parity plagued by asymmetries in different armaments and force levels, the principle of asymmetric responses can itself be used to establish parity (yet again !), albeit at significantly lower and more "equitable" levels.

Despite this utilization of the principle of asymmetric responses in the service of parity, it is the Soviet acceptance of the former idea which has played one of the most significant roles at the CFE negotiations. It has allowed for an acceptance of reductions which, under any other negotiating conditions, would have been highly unacceptable. Whatever the exact outcome of CFE the Soviet Union is already committed to accepting deep cuts in manpower, tanks, armored personnel-carriers (APCs), and artillery. A very rough approximation of these cuts based on WTO proposals and figures (in May 1989) would have committed the WTO to the following reductions (with corresponding NATO reductions in parenthesis): manpower (at a minimum) -- 640,000 (260,000); tanks -- 39,470 (10,690); APCs -- 42,330 (18,900); artillery pieces -- 47,560 (33,060).⁹⁹ For the central region the figures are even more dramatic, especially if NATO recommendations on manpower reductions are accepted, and they reflect the Soviet willingness to reduce its preponderance of forces dramatically.

⁹⁸ V. Chernyshev, "Viennese Equation-Third Round of Talks Between Warsaw Pact Organization and NATO Countries on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Has Begun", *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, 6 September 1989 (2nd ed.), p. 5, in *FBIS-SU*, 14 September 1989, p. 1.

⁹⁹ These are the author's "ballpark estimates", based on WTO figures, of what the East would have expected to have to cut early on in the negotiations.