

CO-CHAIRMEN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS
MOSCOW ACRS MEETING, 17 SEPTEMBER 1992

The second meeting of the Arms Control and Regional Security Working Group, held in Moscow September 15-17, was conducted in a positive atmosphere, with delegations participating actively and constructively in discussions on a wide range of confidence-building and arms control measures, both of which were viewed as having great significance for peace and stability in the region. The participants continued to see value in the present format of the Working Group, including the practice of convening regional caucuses, and agreed to keep the matter of format under consideration in light of ongoing developments. They recognized the need to move increasingly to a more detailed and focused consideration of these issues, consistent with progress in the bilateral track of the peace process.

Several actions will be taken to assist delegations to prepare for the next meeting of the Working Group:

-- Regional parties are invited to provide to the co-sponsors, for circulation in advance of the next meeting, a statement of national views on their long-term arms control and regional security objectives.

-- Delegations are requested to provide to the co-sponsors appropriate material to supplement the information contained in the informal working paper entitled "CBM List", which was distributed in the Regional Caucus on 16 September. All these papers will then be circulated to all parties.

-- Delegations are requested to provide to the co-sponsors information on past arms control proposals for the Middle East. This information will be used by the co-sponsors to compile a list of such proposals, which will be circulated to other delegations.

Although a number of delegations believe that certain confidence-building and arms control measures should not be implemented until further progress is made in the bilateral negotiations, there was agreement on the value of studying and elaborating such measures in the Working Group, with a view to putting them into effect as conditions permit.

Accordingly, working with regional and extra-regional parties, the co-sponsors will coordinate the preparation of, and circulate, informal discussion papers for consideration at upcoming meetings, including on the following topics: a Middle East conflict prevention center; maritime and aerial measures such as incidents at sea agreements and search and rescue arrangements; information exchanges (e.g., pre-notification of certain military activities, voluntary submissions on military equipment holdings); and declaratory confidence-building measures.

In preparing the agenda for the next meeting, the co-sponsors will take into account the material provided and the papers prepared and will consult with other participants. Thus, the agenda will deal with possible future arms control arrangements and confidence-building measures, and will enable regional parties to raise any issues of concern to them. The co-sponsors will provide the agenda in advance of the next meeting, which will be held in Washington at a date to be determined through consultations.

The co-sponsors will explore with other participants the possibility of an informal event involving working group members related to the group's mandate that might be held before the group's next regular meeting.

All participants stressed the importance of regional parties giving high priority to the Arms Control and Regional Security Working Group. In particular, they called on regional parties to promote continuity and expertise by sending senior-level political and military experts to its next and future meetings, in accordance with the points of consensus adopted at the Moscow organizational meeting of 29 January 1992.