

ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP
CO-CHAIRMEN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS
WASHINGTON, MAY 20, 1993

The third round of the Arms Control and Regional Security (ACRS) Working Group, held in Washington May 18-20, engaged twenty-five regional and extra-regional delegations in an active and productive dialogue, in which Palestinian and UN representatives participated for the first time. The meeting heard presentations by Australia, Canada and Japan on practical means of making progress on the ACRS agenda, received contributions by four regional parties on long-term objectives for the ACRS process, and received summaries of four discussion papers on confidence-building measures prepared by the Russian and U.S. co-sponsors.

Participants in the meeting reaffirmed the complementarity of the bilateral and multilateral tracks of the peace process and also deepened their understanding of how the ACRS process can appropriately be integrated with and contribute to the bilateral process, as well as to the general security and stability of the area.

Delegations believed that it was not useful to make sharp distinctions between confidence-building measures and arms control measures, and instead regarded the two as closely related and not mutually exclusive.

Having reaffirmed the group's basic framework of setting ambitious goals and proceeding toward them in a realistic, step-by-step process, delegations agreed on the need to move into a more active stage of work. To this end, they agreed on the importance of using intersessional periods between plenary meetings of the Working Group to accelerate the pace of work, increase the frequency of contacts and pursue more focused activities. They agreed further that intersessional activities should span the full scope of the group's work, while concentrating on the most promising areas.

The participants agreed that ACRS intersessional activities should be guided by the following considerations:

- They should operate in accordance with the rules of the ACRS working group, including consensus decision-making.
- They should involve primarily the regional parties, with extra-regional parties to become involved as mentors or expert presenters.
- They could adopt various formats, such as workshops, facility visits, observation of exercises, simulations and the drafting of papers.
- The intersessional work program must be balanced enough to address the varied concerns of regional parties while selective enough to ensure the most useful tasks are performed.
- Intersessional events should be attended primarily by specialists in the subjects at hand; generalists would also be welcome but numbers should be kept small.

- They should operate as informally as possible.
- Mentors should be chosen with recognized expertise in the subjects they would be mentoring.
- It would be useful to hold intersessional events in the region. Some activities might start outside the region, but move to the region at a later stage.

The Working Group agreed on the following intersessional work program, to be completed in preparation for its next plenary meeting.

Visits

1. Observation of an airbase visit in the U.K. (June 8-10)
2. Observation of a NATO military exercise in Denmark (September)
3. Visit to a communications facility in the Hague (September)

Workshops

4. Verification workshop in Cairo (July 11-13)
5. Communications measures workshop (in conjunction with above visit to a communications facility); Netherlands to act as mentor.
6. Workshop on information exchange (including prenotifications of military activities); Turkey to act as mentor.
7. Workshops on ACRS long-term objectives and on declaratory measures; U.S. and Russia to act as mentors.
8. Workshop on maritime measures (search-and-rescue and incidents-at-sea); Canada to act as mentor.

Other Activities (to be coordinated by U.S. and Russia)

9. Analysis of arms control proposals for the Middle East.
10. Updating and analysis of CBM List tabled in Moscow in September 1992.
11. Analysis of the geographic scope of arms control and regional security measures for the Middle East.
12. Study of the concept of a center for conflict prevention.

Coordination of the schedule for these activities will be done through diplomatic channels in the near future.

The Working Group appreciated the offers by the extra-regional parties to facilitate the above activities. Delegations also acknowledged the generous offers made by Italy (of the EC Delegation) and by Switzerland (of

the EFTA Countries Delegation), to sponsor intersessional activities. In view of the difficulty of scheduling all proposed activities in the upcoming intersessional period, it was agreed to defer consideration of these offers to the next plenary meeting, without prejudice to the outcome of this consideration.

The Working Group noted with appreciation the efforts made by several regional parties to promote continuity and expertise in ACRS participation by sending senior-level experts to the Washington round. The Working Group called on all regional parties to make similar efforts, and to designate expert personnel to participate in the ACRS intersessional activities. It also called on regional parties which have not yet done so to prepare views on long-term ACRS objectives, past arms control measures and the CBM List tabled in Moscow in September 1992, so these views can be taken into account in the appropriate intersessional activities listed above.

Looking ahead, the Working Group called on regional states that have not yet done so to join them at the next ACRS plenary session. For this next meeting, it was agreed that the co-sponsors, in consultation with the participants, will prepare the agenda to reflect the deliberations and results of the intersessional activities. The co-sponsors will circulate the agenda in advance of the next plenary meeting, which will be held in Moscow or a regional venue, at a date to be determined through consultations.