PREFACE

The question of regulation and reduction of conventional armaments is urgent as it has put humanity on a collision course with its own survival. Rapid advances in science and technology has aggravated the situation by pushing conventional warfare towards increased automation. Recent trend has been for the development of Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs), not only long-range cruise missiles but also other weapons with on-board guidance system which could drastically alter the nature of conventional warfare.

The crux of the U.N. report entitled 'study on conventional disarmament' is that the conventional arms race endangers international security by heightening military confrontation and international tension.

This is particularly true of Europe where two politico-military alliances have concentrated a huge stockpile of sophisticated armaments. Europeans are eager to demilitarize Europe and move towards peace and security.

Sweeping changes have taken place with the end of the Cold War, the dissolution of the WTO, the disintegration of the USSR and the transformation of Central and Eastern Europe to democratic states. Yet the urgency is to build-down the armaments by negotiating in the Conventional Force Treaty in Europe (CFE) between the NATO and WTO. Instabilities occurring through the momentous process of change must be dealt with firmly. Military confrontation must give way to the
construction of an alternative security doctrine aiming at
demilitarization and establishing stability and security in
Europe. This study is a modest attempt to describe these
dramatic changes in Europe which led to the signing of the CFE
Treaty.

The methodology is analytical and empirical. Extensive use
of primary as well as the secondary source materials has been
made. The primary sources include the statements of US
Secretaries of Defence, documented testimonies, US Congressional
hearings, various United States, the Soviet Union and the United
Nations published documents, the NATO and Warsaw Pact documents,
SIPRI publications and speeches and press conferences. Secondary
source materials comprise books and articles in journals and
periodicals devoted to the relevant theme. As I could not get a
field-trip to Europe to complete the collection of very relevant
documents, there are some obvious gaps in this study. This is
beyond my control.

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The discrepancies, if any, in the thesis are entirely mine.

Suman Arora