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European Security Measuresthe Rapacki, Gomulka and Lachs Plans

Since Europe is the principal region of military confrontations between East and West, it is natural that a great deal of thought should be given to the possibility of building a more secure system in the area. Arms control measures could obviously make an important contribution and a wide range of proposals for such measures has been suggested including denuclearisation, a nuclear freeze, regional non-proliferation, thinning out of forces and disengagement. The best known of these proposals have been put forward by the Polish Government. They are:

- /i/ The Rapacki plan, which provides in two stages for the complete denuclearisation of a zone in central Europe covering Germany, /both East and West/, Poland and Czechoslovakia, and a reduction of armed forces and armaments in the area.
- /ii/ The Gomulka plan, which proposes the freeze of nuclear warheads in central Europe, in the same area as the Rapacki plan.
- /iii/ The Lachs plan, for regional non-proliferation, which proposes both a ban on production of nuclear weapons and a ban on the transfer of control of nuclear weapons, in the same area of central Europe as the other two plans.

A number of possible variations of these plans have been suggested.

2. In considering the contribution which arms control measures like those mentioned above could make to more secure Europe, it is essential to start by taking account of all the factors involved. Europe is not only the principal area of military confrontation between East and West; it is also the region in which political differences between East and West remain the most acute. Indeed, the forces and armaments that are deployed in central Europe are there primarily because East and West have still not resolved these fundamental political differences. It follows that substantial progress on arms control measures in the area will only be achieved if progress can be made the same time towards a solution of the political differences.