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Adversarial conventional arms control in Europe: the quest for peace

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Propositions accompanying this dissertation:

Conventional Arms Control in Europe
The Quest for Peace

1. The speed at which a Conventional Arms Control (CAC) negotiation can be made and completed is directly related to the extent to which states agree about the military balance status quo.
2. A CAC agreement proposal which attempts to invert the military balance is unlikely to be accepted by all parties.
3. Implementation of CAC agreements is successful when delegated to significantly autonomous International Organizations (IOs) except in periods of great rivalry between adversaries, if these rivals have a substantial “brake” capability on the IO.
4. Incorporating adaptation measures such as committees to resolve Treaty Limited Equipment (TLE) definitional questions and to adapt to new technologies and geo-political circumstances can increase the lifespan of a CAC agreement.
5. The ability to monitor and verify TLE compliance is directly proportional to the size of the TLE object.
6. States that sign CAC agreements do so with the intention of complying with them, although only if adversaries are viewed as intending to respect the agreement as well.
7. CAC agreements that are based on a template may be easier to draft, but they are less likely to reflect the particular conditions of the rivalry in question and the state parties concerned.
8. The European Commission should have a dedicated (decentralized) agency for arms control and disarmament on par with Europol or the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.
9. An area within the Arctic should be designated for demilitarization, in which ships of certain sizes or types are prohibited, such as aircraft carriers and amphibious landing ships.
10. Future CAC agreements in Europe should incorporate an autonomous agreement implementer (an IO) which is significantly staffed and at least in part under the guidance and control of neutral, third-party states.
11. CAC should be featured more in university education, especially in international security programs.

By William Lippert
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