PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATIVE SECURITY IN EAST ASIA: FROM CHINESE PERSPECTIVES

Recommended Citation

During recent years, security situation in East Asia has been relatively stable. Most of the countries in the region have been recovering from the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. Economic interdependence between countries has been developing, and this will help to maintain stability in the region. Therefore, the future security environment in East Asia is likely to be relatively stable.

* Making great efforts to develop economic exchanges and cooperation among countries on the basis of principles of equality and mutual benefits. This is the basis of regional security cooperation and an important part of the strategy for cooperative security in East Asia.

* Starting with the increase of mutual understanding and trusts among major powers. That will be the precondition of establishment of CBMs and effectiveness of regional multilateral security cooperation mechanisms.

* Mutual respects of sovereignty and territorial integrity and mutual noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. One of the most important experiences of member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in multilateral security cooperation is to maintain the sovereignty of the member countries. This principle should also be applied in East Asia.

* In the strategic framework, the role and impact of the USSR had been much smaller than those in the bi-polar framework of the West and East in Europe. So the turbulence and collapse of the USSR had a smaller impact on East Asia.

* The regional strategic framework of East Asia is continuing to develop towards multi-polarization. East Asia was the region, in which the trend of multi-polarization arose first in the world. In the early 1970s, the strategic triangle of China-US-USSR emerged. From the late 1980s, with the relaxation of US-USSR relationship and Japan as the major power, the strategic triangle of China-US-USSR was replaced by the strategic quadrilateral of China-US-USSR-Japan. Then in the early 1990s, the strategic triangle of China-US-USSR-Japan was replaced by the strategic quadrilateral of China-US-USSR-Japan. Now the strategic triangle of China-US-USSR-Japan is replaced by the strategic quadrilateral of China-US-USSR-Japan-ROK.

* The mutual interdependence between countries and the end of the Cold War have made more countries accept the new security concepts, but arms of some countries (or regions) have been developing too fast. During recent years, with the rapid development of trade and economic exchanges in the region, economic interdependence between East Asian countries has been much closer. This factor and the post-Cold War international situation have made China-U.S. economic cooperation "the centerpiece of the new security concept". In the new security concept, economic cooperation and economic mechanism formation are important parts of new security cooperation.

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