

Special Section

Introduction

MARK SMITH

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The Mountbatten Centre for International Studies in the Department of Politics of the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, was established in 1990 to explore significant trends in international security relations, including issues related to global nonproliferation. In 1999, as part of its commitment to the study and support of the international regimes for the control of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Mountbatten Centre set up a project known as the Mountbatten Centre International Missile Forum.

The forum was established to facilitate and encourage cooperative, multilateral approaches to address the challenges posed by the proliferation of missiles and missile defenses. It aims to promote common security through the development of arms control initiatives and the establishment of global norms on ballistic missiles and missile defenses. Within this framework, its objectives are:

- To encourage international debate on constructing a comprehensive nonproliferation regime for ballistic missiles;
- To elucidate the regional dynamics of missile proliferation;
- To explore the impact of missile defenses on the concepts of strategic stability and deterrence;
- To promote consensus between the United States and its European allies on the future of missile defense systems.

The work of the forum centers on an annual meeting, which reviews international developments in these issues. The papers in the section below were written for the 2002 meeting, held at New Place, Southampton, United Kingdom, on May 26-28, 2002. Institutions participating in the forum include the Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), California, United States; the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI), Paris, France; the Peace Research Institute (PRIF), Frankfurt, Germany; the Japanese Institute for International Affairs (JIIA), Tokyo, Japan; the Moscow office of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association; and the Landau Network. Papers submitted to previous meetings of the forum have been published by the CNS as part of a Special Joint Series on Missile Issues, in collaboration with the Mountbatten Centre.¹ The forum would also like to acknowledge the generous financial support for the meeting provided by the Ploughshares Foundation.

For further information on the Forum and its future plans, contact Dr. Mark Smith of the Mountbatten Centre (e-mail: mjs10@soton.ac.uk).

¹ *International Perspectives on Missile Proliferation and Defenses*, Occasional Paper No. 5 (Monterey, CA: Monterey Institute of International Studies and Mountbatten Centre for International Studies, 2001), <<http://cns.miis.edu/pubs/opapers/op5/index.htm>>; *Missile Proliferation and Defenses: Problems and Prospects*, Occasional Paper No. 7 (Southampton, UK: Mountbatten Centre for International Studies and Monterey Institute of International Studies, 2001), <<http://cns.miis.edu/pubs/opapers/op7/index.htm>>.