

Preface

This annual review covers the trends of the security environment of East Asia that have developed during the 12-month period ended December 31, 2001. In 2001, attention was initially focused on what kind of changes might occur regarding the U.S. military presence in the Asian region as a result of the review of defense strategies and policy toward East Asia by the new Bush administration. However, as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the problem of terrorism was pushed to the forefront. How international terrorism will influence future U.S. policy and international relations is uncertain. While East Asian countries are unified with the United States in their criticism of international terrorism, as a reflection of the region's diversity, they are divided in their reaction to U.S. military action in Afghanistan. Additionally, though hidden in the shadow of terrorism, the highly welcomed development of mutual concessions between North and South Korea in 2000, seen as an encouraging trend that boded well for the peace and stability of East Asia, rapidly came to a halt upon entering 2001.

To make East Asia a region of peace and prosperity, it is important to perceive the regional security environment as objectively as possible. Based on such a perspective, *East Asian Strategic Review 2002* analyzes the strategic environment of the East Asia region from the individual viewpoints of the researchers of the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS). Accordingly, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the government of Japan or the Defense Agency. NIDS conducts research on international security and military history, and carries out education equivalent to that at defense universities of other countries. In addition, the institute has been promoting security dialogue with Japan's neighboring countries (China, Russia, South Korea and member countries of ASEAN) through defense research exchanges. In August 2001, NIDS held the 5th ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Universities/Colleges/Institutions.

We have been conducting such international exchanges in the belief that misunderstandings among countries can be cleared up and confidence in one another can be built through the exchange of views and discussions of regional security from various perspectives. The institute has been widely disseminating ideas through *NIDS Security Reports*, the Web site (<http://nids.go.jp>), and this *East Asian Strategic Review*, which is a major part of these dissemination activities.

This review consists of two parts, with the first part focusing on issues of regional security, namely, the response in East Asia to the September 11 terrorist attacks, which garnered the most attention in 2001, the situation in Southeast Asia and the nuclear policy of India, a major power neighboring East Asia. The second part outlines the regional situations in Russia, China and on the Korean Peninsula, as well as U.S. policy in East Asia and Japan's defense policy. It is our sincere hope that this report will help readers deepen their understanding of the strategic environment of East Asia and stimulate lively debate on the subject.

In the course of writing and editing *East Asian Strategic Review 2002*, valuable contributions and opinions were received from the following people. We would like to take this opportunity to express to them our deep gratitude.

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