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With the 1997 NPT PrepCom on the horizon, a number of nonproliferation disputes are acquiring added salience. In South Asia, the NPT community's stand-off with India over the CTBT has caused the nuclear weapon states (NWS) to close ranks and point the finger at New Delhi, and yet the NWS cannot fully deny the legitimacy of India's demands for a time-bound framework for nuclear disarmament. William Walker (University of St. Andrews) examines the dilemmas of this debate and suggests that a cooperative approach is the only answer. In the Middle East, Israel's continued status as a *de facto* NWS is bound to be the source of renewed Arab complaints at the PrepCom, although it is unclear if a consensus will emerge on possible action. Gerald Steinberg (Bar Ilan University) traces the Egyptian campaign before, during, and after the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and suggests that Israel may have weathered the heaviest attacks it is likely to face. The policy debate on how best to deal with states not in compliance with the regime is taken up by Henry Sokolski (Nonproliferation Policy Education Center), who argues that the United States must lead by example in selectively punishing regime-threatening behavior, especially in dealing with nuclear exports to non-signatories. On this topic, Bates Gill (SIPRI), Kensuke Ebata (Japanese Export Control Committee), and Matthew Stephenson (Harvard University) discuss means of making such export controls more effective, taking examples from recent Japanese initiatives. But while Japan has been willing to lead on these issues, it has not been willing to risk alienating the United States in its nuclear policies. By contrast, non-nuclear New Zealand has taken the bull by the horns and adopted a strong anti-nuclear weapons stance. Wade Huntley (Nautilus Institute) argues that New Zealand's continued survival shows that such policies can make sense even within a "realist" security framework. According to Tanya Ogilvie-White (University of Southampton), however, theories of international politics still offer few and contradictory lessons about nuclear proliferation. One question raised in this debate is that of the "example" being set by the NWS themselves. A policy question that will test this issue is NWS attitudes towards the disposition of excess weapons plutonium. Charles Van Doren (Ogden Environmental and Energy Services) argues that it is better to burn plutonium than to reject its value and bury it, a perspective likely to be hotly debated in Washington and elsewhere as a decision nears on U.S. government policy. Questions about Russia's role and difficult financial circumstances are a complicating factor, as Moscow seeks to use its old weapons for profit. But, as Jonathan Tucker (CNS) points out, it has failed to do so in converting its chemical weapons facilities and now faces severe hurdles in complying with the Chemical Weapons Convention. These points frame a larger issue, namely, that perceived short-term benefits in developing weapons of mass destruction often come with hidden long-term costs.

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