

reducing military risks, the participating states also agreed on mechanisms for consultation and cooperation as regards unusual military activity as well as on cooperation with regard to hazardous incidents of a military nature. Furthermore, They agreed to promote military contacts and to create a direct communications network between the capitals of the CSCE states for the rapid transmission of all CSBM related data.<sup>41</sup>

## The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty

The objectives of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) negotiations were the establishment of a secure and stable balance of conventional forces at lower levels; the elimination of disparities prejudicial to stability and security, and the elimination, as a matter of priority, of the capability for launching a surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action. In addition, it was NATO's intention that "no one country should be allowed to dominate Europe by force of arms and that there should be a limit on the amount of equipment that could be stationed outside national territory."<sup>42</sup>

In the autumn of 1989, one East European communist government after another collapsed, making possible the unification of Germany and changing the military and political context of the (CFE) negotiations. When the Soviet Union announced its intention to withdraw forces from Eastern Europe and when the newly elected governments in these countries disclosed their own plans to reduce the size of their military forces, some questioned whether a CFE Treaty was still necessary. A treaty however, remained the best insurance that these unilateral actions could not be legally reversed at a later date. Hence, on November 19, 1990 the 22 nations of NATO and the Warsaw Pact signed the Treaty on Conventional armed Forces in Europe (CFE), which provided an underlying element of certainty and confidence in an era of rapid change.

The CFE Treaty applied to 22 nations and tens of thousands of armaments which were spread over an area of more than 1.5 million square miles. Upon its conclusion, it was considered to be "the most ambitious arms control agreement ever signed."<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Ibid., pg. 5.

<sup>42</sup> Micheal Moodie, "The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe", in Disarmament: A periodic review by the United Nations, Volume XIV, Number 2, 1991, pg. 13.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., pg. 17.