

observers to all military activities to which we have been invited; Canadian troops have been among those observed and inspected. Canada has not yet, however, chosen to exercise its right to carry out a challenge inspection.

Numerous inspections by member states of NATO and the Warsaw Pact have taken place over the past two and a half years, firmly establishing the principle that on-site inspections can be politically uncontentious and make a positive contribution to the transparency of military activity in Europe.

Under the challenge inspection provision of the Stockholm Document a reply from the receiving state is required within 24 hours of the receipt of an inspection request. Within 36 hours after the issuance of the request, the inspection team will be permitted to enter the territory of the receiving state. The inspection team consists of no more than 4 inspectors who are allowed 48 hours to complete their task. The receiving state supplies both ground and air transportation, as well as communications facilities to the team during the inspection. Board and lodging are also provided to the team. After the inspection is completed, a report is prepared by the inspecting state that is distributed to all CSCE participating states.

It was agreed by Ministers earlier this year that given Canada's interest and recognized expertise in the field of verification, that this country could contribute constructively to this on-going confidence-building process by conducting a challenge inspection under the provisions of the Stockholm Document. On June 12th, Canada addressed a request to the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to inspect a military exercise, notified under the terms of the Stockholm Document. The inspection of this military activity is intended to reinforce Canada's commitment to the measures of the Stockholm Document. It is our conviction that by their implementation, these measures serve to strengthen confidence in Europe, giving expression to the duty of states to refrain from the use of force. It is incumbent upon Canada to continue to play an active role in negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), working to achieve improved openness regarding military forces and their activities. Canada's experience in the field of verification, augmented by this inspection, will allow us to better contribute to the design and implementation of the means to verify future agreements.