

Canada and USSR Sign Agreement on PDMA



General Moiseyev (seated, left) and General de Chastelain (seated, right) signing the Agreement. *Canadian Forces photo*

In Ottawa on May 10, the Chief of the Canadian Defence Staff, General John de Chastelain, and the Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces and First Deputy Defence Minister of the USSR, General M.A. Moiseyev, signed on behalf of their respective governments an Agreement on the Prevention of Dangerous Military Activities (PDMA).

The Agreement is designed to ensure the safety of personnel and the protection of equipment when the armed forces of the USSR and the armed forces of Canada exercise or operate in close proximity to each other. The Agreement, which is guided by the principles and rules of international law, commits both parties to avoid dangerous military activities and to resolve any incidents quickly and peacefully. The parties will meet regularly to review the Agreement's implementation. The USSR signed a similar agreement with the USA in 1989.

General Moiseyev was in Ottawa to discuss a wide range of bilateral issues, including international and European security, arms control, and the future of Soviet-Canadian military visits and exchanges. A two-year program of visits and exchanges, including bilateral military staff talks, began in 1990. While in Canada, General Moiseyev became acquainted with the life and activities of Canadian Forces personnel through visits to the Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, B.C., and to a number of naval, land and air force installations across the country.

In the summer of 1990, General de Chastelain became the first Canadian defence chief to visit the USSR, where he spoke to members of the Military Academy of the Soviet General Staff and visited military installations in Leningrad and the Kola Peninsula.

According to the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Marcel Masse, "General Moiseyev's visit and the signing of the Agreement are both reflections of the greater understanding and professional friendships that have been fostered between our two forces over the past year."

NATO Ministers Issue Communiqué

The following communiqué was issued in Copenhagen on June 7 by NATO foreign ministers.

At their Summit in London last July, our Heads of State and Government committed our Alliance of free and democratic nations to a process of adaptation commensurate with the changes that have reshaped the face of Europe. The fundamental review that they mandated of the Alliance's political and military strategy is being carried out on all levels and is approaching completion. Our Heads of State and Government will convene in Rome on 7th and 8th November to bring this process to its conclusion.

The process initiated by the London Declaration is an important contribution to enhancing stability and security within a free Europe. Our efforts to ensure stability in peace and freedom will recognize the political, economic, social and ecological elements of security, along with indispensable defence dimension. The Alliance, and the EC, the WEU, the CSCE and the Council of Europe are key institutions in this endeavour. We are guided by our ultimate goal of establishing a just and lasting peaceful order in the whole of Europe.

To this end, much has been achieved recently. Following the entry into force of the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, united Germany for the first time participates in a meeting of the North Atlantic Council at Ministerial level as a fully sovereign member of this Alliance. As we noted in our statement issued yesterday, the division of Europe has been overcome. In fulfilment of the undertakings contained in the Charter of Paris and the Joint Declaration of 22 States signed last November, which now assume ever greater relevance, we are cooperating with the Soviet Union and the other Central and Eastern European states more closely than before. We will work to make the forthcoming meeting of CSCE foreign ministers in Berlin a decisive new step in the development of the CSCE process.