

3. Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

These limits refer to the entire area of application of the treaty which includes all of the European territory of states party to the treaty, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains in the Soviet Union. US and Canadian territory is not affected. Separate regional sub-limits are established for specified zones within the area of application.

In order to guard against any one state having a preponderance of the arms limited by the Treaty, no one state may possess more than approximately one third of the total arms permitted in a given category. Specific maximum levels are outlined for each category. For example, no individual state, including the US and the Soviet Union, can possess more than 13,300 tanks, 20,000 armoured combat vehicles or 13,700 artillery pieces within the zone (Article VI).

These limits will require only modest cuts in NATO tanks and helicopters, and no NATO cuts at all in the other categories. Warsaw Pact countries, however, traditionally relying on quantity to counter the qualitative advantage of NATO forces, will have to make significant cuts across the board (see Section V: FACTS AND FIGURES for details).

All reductions must be completed forty months after the treaty enters into force. The reductions are to occur in three phases. After sixteen months, twenty-five percent of the reductions must be completed, twelve months later, or twenty-eight months after the treaty enters into force, sixty percent of the reductions must be completed, and twelve months later, or forty months after the treaty enters into force, all reductions must be completed [Article VIII(4)].

The Treaty will enter into force ten days after all of the signatories to the Treaty have deposited instruments of ratification in the Netherlands. So, although the Treaty has been signed and some elements of the Treaty will be implemented (such as information exchanges), reductions will not officially begin until all states have ratified the Treaty.

Extensive verification measures have been developed to ensure compliance with the CFE Treaty. For example, detailed exchanges of information and notifications are required. The first official exchange of information occurred on 18 November, one day prior to signature of the Treaty by the heads of state. Further exchanges of information will be required thirty days after the Treaty enters into force, on 15 December every year after the Treaty enters into force, and at the end of the forty-month period of reductions.¹ The information required includes the structure and peacetime location of the command organization of land, air and air defence forces, designation and location of

¹Section VII, Protocol on Notification and Exchange of Information.