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The Disarmament Bulletin

A review of Canada's arms control and disarmament activities

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures
OTTAWA

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On to Budapest

Ottawa Conference Concludes with Draft Treaty Text



Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark (centre) with American Secretary of State James Baker (right) and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze (left) at the Open Skies Conference held in Ottawa from February 12 to 27, 1990.

"We are exactly where we thought we would be coming out of the Ottawa Conference," said John Noble, head of the Canadian delegation to the Open Skies Conference, at the close of the Conference in Ottawa on February 27. "There are a series of outstanding issues, but none of them are unresolvable provided there's a spirit of give and take on both sides."

The February 12 to 27 meeting between representatives of the 16 members of NATO and seven members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) was the first of a two-stage process to negotiate an Open Skies treaty, which would provide for regular, short-notice overflights of each other's territory using unarmed surveillance aircraft. The second stage of the negotiations will be held in Budapest from April 23 to May 12, 1990.

Foreign ministers from all 23 of the NATO and WTO countries were present in Ottawa for the first two days of the Conference. As this was their first meeting since

The Disarmament Bulletin is published four times per year by External Affairs and International Trade Canada. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list or require additional copies, please write to:

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125 Sussex Drive
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— ISSN 0715-7134 —

Cette publication existe également en français.

External Affairs and
International Trade Canada

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