

or other Canadian forces in Europe were not specified in the new agreement, it was widely expected in Canada that these forces would be significantly reduced by the mid-1990s. The issue now was to decide on roles which would be most worthwhile in terms not only of Canada's contributions to European security, but also from the point of view of serving best the coherence and viability of Canada's own defence structure.

The options before Canada as regards its land force commitment to Europe, at mid-1991, are roughly as follows: continue to maintain a light mechanized brigade in Germany, as well as forces in Canada dedicated for reinforcement duties and for ACE Mobile Force tasks; reduce Canadian forces stationed in Europe to, say, 1,500 to 2,000 personnel, in an infantry or parachute battalion group dedicated to NATO multinational force duties; reduce the Canadian contingent in Europe to less than 500 and dedicate these remaining personnel to verification or similar duties; or withdraw the Canadian Army from Europe entirely and fulfil obligations to NATO in Europe with units stationed in Canada.

If the first of these options were chosen, then 4 CMBG could probably be re-equipped with new tanks and other materiel relatively inexpensively as a result of the "cascading" process accompanying implementation of the CFE I agreement i.e., the transfer of modern equipment reduced by the German or US armies, for example, to Canada. In that case the structure of the Canadian Army in Canada would also remain largely unchanged, although there would probably still be some reductions in the manning levels of Mobile Command by the mid-1990s.

If any of the other options were to be chosen, then not only 4 CMBG but also the whole of Canada's land forces would be affected. Efforts would probably be made to refashion the army to make it a somewhat more flexible, mobile instrument, and there might be more emphasis on peacekeeping and other UN duties if that seemed viable. Responsibility for protecting Northern Canada and participating in the land defence of North America would remain, as well as aid to the civil power and national development