

4. Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

Canada itself ratified the CFE Treaty on 22 November 1992.² As in other negotiations, Canada played a strong role in developing verification provisions for the Treaty.

Canada was one of the first countries to give recognition to the Ukraine as an independent state. As part of its efforts to establish diplomatic relations with the Ukraine, Canada has sought to ensure that Ukraine will abide by the limitations established in the CFE Treaty and other arms control treaties.³ In April 1992 Canadian experts went to Kiev to train Ukrainian officials in the verification procedures required by the CFE Treaty.⁴

With respect to its own forces Canada announced on 25 February 1991 that it would be withdrawing all of its troops and equipment from Europe by 1994 as part of general cutbacks in national defence.⁵ Along with other NATO states Canada would have been only marginally affected by the CFE limits since the preponderance of cuts falls to the former Warsaw Pact states. The removal of Canadian troops from Europe, however, does eliminate the most tangible reason for Canadian involvement in these negotiations.

Canada has also been a strong supporter of the CSBM negotiation process in Europe. Canada along with Germany has been a key player in drafting the proposals for limits on personnel ceilings discussed at the CFE 1A negotiations. Canada set its own upper limit on personnel as 10,660 under the July CFE 1A agreement.⁶

In December 1991, Canada joined with fellow NATO members in outlining common goals for the March 1992 review of conventional force negotiations. These goals included:

- negotiations of force levels commensurate with legitimate security needs;
- establishment of a permanent security dialogue, which would include further development of transparency and cooperation in defence matters;

² Department of External Affairs. "Canada Ratifies the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe," *News Release*, No. 266, 25 November 1991.

³ "Canada Expects Ukrainian Compliance," *The Disarmament Bulletin*, No. 18, Winter 1991/92: 16.

⁴ Canada. "Canadians in Ukraine for Bilateral Arms Verification Training," *News Release*, 19/92, 6 April 1992.

⁵ Department of National Defence. "Impact of 1992 Federal Budget on Defence Policy and Programs," *Background*, 25 February 1992.

⁶ IDDS. *Arms Control Reporter*, 1992: 410.B.23.