

the status of religious communities and ensure their right to places of worship, institutional structures, sacred books and publications in the language of choice, and to appoint personnel and secure funding;

- protect the human rights of minorities; promote their identities; allow their cultural expression; and allow contacts with counterparts elsewhere.

- respect freedom of movement within and between countries including the right to leave any country and return to one's own country.

- ensure that no one is subject to arbitrary arrest, exile or detention; protect individuals from abuse of psychiatric practices; improve treatment of prisoners.

- make decisions on applications for travel for family meetings within one month, and for family reunification and marriage within three months; decide on urgent humanitarian cases as soon as possible; allow families to travel together;

- shorten the time of refusal of emigration permission on grounds of access to security; provide regular reviews on appeal; resolve long-term refusenik cases.

- resolve all outstanding applications for exit permission within six months and conduct regular reviews thereafter.

- provide information and consult bilaterally on specific cases and situations; convene a Conference on the Human Dimension, meeting in Paris (1989), Copenhagen (1990), and Moscow (1991), to consider human rights, human contacts, and related humanitarian issues, and to deal with unresolved cases and situations.

- guarantee the freedom and privacy of postal and telephone communications.

- facilitate the freer and wider flow of information;

- convene follow-up meetings including an Information Forum (London, April-May 1989), a Symposium on the European Cultural Heritage (Kraków, 1991), and discussion of the application of third-party involvement in the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes.

- In economic and related cooperation, governments agree to:

- improve business contacts and information;

- convene an Economic Conference including business persons (Bonn, 1990) to discuss ways to improve East-West commercial relations.

- improve cooperation in science and technology including direct contacts among scientists and respect for the human rights of scientists.

- strengthen environmental cooperation and promote public awareness and involvement. ■

### Conclusion of MBFR Talks

*On February 7, the Department of External Affairs issued the following communiqué:*

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today took note of the final plenary meeting of the Negotiations on the Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe in Vienna. The decision to conclude these negotiations was taken by the participating states in light of the agreement to open the new Negotiation on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, in March of this year. Canada, a participant in the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks, will play a full role in the new negotiation.

"The MBFR negotiations, which began in 1973, have provided a valuable multilateral forum for the discussion of proposals aimed at strengthening security in Europe, although there has been insufficient common ground for the conclusion of a treaty. However, the experience which Canada has gained in this pioneering attempt to arrive at conventional arms control measures will serve us well in the new negotiation, as we pursue a stable balance of conventional armed forces in Europe at lower levels," said Mr. Clark. ■

### MBFR Concluding Western Statement

*Concluding Statement made on behalf of the Western Participants by the Head of the Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ambassador L.W. Veenendaal, on February 2, 1989.*

"Today we are meeting for the last time in this splendid hall. The Governments of the States represented around this table have decided to conclude the negotiations on the Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe, because in another forum agreement has been reached to begin the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. It is of importance to stress that East and West have reached this decision by consensus. Not only have we by common agreement decided to terminate the talks, but we have also come to agree on the modalities and the procedures adopted for this meeting. The joint communiqué we are issuing today bears witness of this agreement in all its aspects.

Our talks come to an end without our having signed an agreement of substance. In the view of the West, this does not diminish the importance of fifteen years of negotiations and serious efforts to reach for a more stable relationship in Europe. I will not try to deliver a final assessment of these negotiations, but I believe that already now some important conclusions can be drawn. Let me use this opportunity today to put together some of our experiences and try to come to something of an evaluation.

Such an evaluation can only be done correctly if one puts the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) negotiations in their proper perspective. The decision to convene these talks should of course be understood in the light of the political circumstances which prevailed in the early seventies. In 1967 the West has taken the important initiative of outlining its views on the improvement of East-West relations in