

the Atlantic-to-the-Urals region (known as the ATTU), within which signatories are obligated to apply Treaty provisions. A "group of states parties" means either the members of NATO or the six remaining states parties, which signed the 1955 Treaty of Warsaw.

Article III provides counting rules to enumerate TLE and defines exceptions for identical equipment that is not to be limited (e.g., museum collections, the holdings of paramilitary forces, pieces awaiting disposal following decommissioning).

Article IV places ceilings on the total number of TLE that may be held by either group (and, for some types of TLE, maximum sub-ceilings on the numbers held by active units). The limits are:

- Tanks — 20,000 (16,500)
- ACVs — 30,000 (27,300)
- Artillery — 20,000 (17,000)
- Combat aircraft — 6,800
- Attack helicopters — 2,000.

Pieces not held by active units are retained in designated storage sites. Additional sub-ceilings place regional limits on active (and stored) TLE that may be deployed within portions of the ATTU.

Article V places additional constraints on the levels of TLE that might be held in a specific component of the ATTU.

Article VI establishes a "sufficiency rule," which places a ceiling on the levels of TLE held by any one signatory. In general, no state may have more than an average of one-third of the aggregate holdings of both groups of states parties.

Article VII obligates signatories not to exceed the national levels of TLE that are apportioned within each group of states parties and which collectively for each group must not exceed Treaty ceilings. National levels of holdings must be declared at Treaty signature.

Article VIII defines procedures and a 3-year time frame for reducing levels of declared TLE holdings to Treaty-imposed ceilings. Procedures include destruction, conversion of limited numbers of pieces to non-military purposes, and use as static displays or ground tar-

gets. (CFE verification provisions permit unlimited inspection quotas to verify TLE reductions.)

Article IX permits temporary holding sites for storing decommissioned TLE prior to ultimate disposal.

Article X allows states to designate permanent storage sites for holding TLE not with active units, and imposes conditions concerning the temporary removal of such TLE.

Article XI imposes a ceiling of 740 on the aggregate number of armoured vehicle launched bridges (AVLBs) held by active units within a group of states parties. All other AVLBs must be retained in permanent storage sites, from which limited temporary removal is permitted under certain conditions.

Article XII exempts states from counting the first 1,000 armoured infantry fighting vehicles (a defined type of armoured personnel carrier) held by paramilitary forces. Units in excess of this ceiling will be counted in national holdings subject to numerical limitations.

Article XIII obligates states to provide notifications and to exchange information concerning the structure of their conventional armed force and holdings of TLE.

Article XIV provides states with the right to conduct, and the obligation to accept, inspections to verify the compliance of other parties with numerical limitations on TLE, or to monitor TLE reduction and conversion procedures. Inspection teams may be multinational in character. Following completion of the residual level validation period, aerial inspections will be permitted.

Article XV endorses the use of national or multinational technical means to complement the Treaty's verification procedures and obligates states not to use abnormal concealment practices to impede the use of such surveillance techniques.

Article XVI establishes a Joint Consultative Group for several purposes, including discussion of compliance or circumvention of the Treaty provisions, resolution of technical questions, consideration of measures designed to im-

prove the Treaty, and consideration of disputes.

Article XVII requires states to provide notifications and information in written form.

Article XVIII obligates states to continue to negotiate on conventional armed forces in Europe, with the goal of building on this Treaty. States will endeavour to conclude these follow-on negotiations no later than the next CSCE review conference, scheduled to be held in Helsinki in March 1992.

Articles XIX through XXIII pertain to administrative details concerning withdrawals from the Treaty, amendments, review conferences, ratification, and entry into force (10 days after the last signatory has indicated its ratification procedures are complete). The Netherlands will serve as the Depositary to give effect as required to administrative procedures.

The following Protocols and Annexes provide explicit guidance, interpretations, procedures, formats, and provisions to implement the Treaty:

- Protocol on Existing Types and Annex
- Protocol on Aircraft Reclassification
- Protocol on Reduction
- Protocol on Helicopter Reclassification
- Protocol on Information Exchange and Annex
- Protocol on Inspection
- Protocol on the Joint Consultative Group
- Protocol on Provisional Application. ■

Outline of CFE Verification

The verification package established by the CFE Treaty is perhaps the most complex ever negotiated for an arms control agreement. Its extensive provisions will require an extremely high degree of cooperation among all the parties to the Treaty, which only a short