

## **The Stockholm Conference**

The Stockholm Conference, or as it is formally called, the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, is a creation of the ongoing 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and represents a unique approach to negotiating arms control and disarmament. The Conference which began in January 1984, is "to undertake, in stages, new, effective and concrete actions designed to make progress in strengthening confidence and security and in achieving disarmament." Canada is represented by Ambassador Tom Delworth.

The first stage of the Conference is specifically devoted to the negotiation and adoption of a set of mutually complementary confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs for short) designed to reduce the risk of military confrontation in Europe. They represent a novel and largely undefined approach to East-West arms control and disarmament. While the mandate stipulates that the CSBMs are to be militarily significant, politically binding, adequately verifiable and applicable to the whole of Europe, the exact nature of these measures is left up to the Conference to determine.

Here, the approaches of East and West are in striking contrast: the West favours a gradual building up of confidence through a series of concrete steps, whereas the East prefers an initial declaration that confidence exists and its subsequent reinforcement with subordinate and limited specific measures.

The Conference has had disappointing results so far. Yet Canada hopes that there will be some significant forward movement on the basis of the degree of consensus that does exist on the need to improve on the existing and admittedly modest confidence-building measures contained in the Helsinki Final Act.

## **The Vienna Talks**

The remaining multilateral negotiating forum — the Vienna-based Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Talks (MBFR) — is composed of 12 members of NATO and 7 members of the Warsaw Pact. Canada is represented by Ambassador Tom Hammond.

Recognising that the concentration of forces in Central Europe is the largest in the world, the objective of these talks, as the title suggests, has been mutual reduction of conventional forces in Europe to parity at 900,000.