

Canada, as an ally, must continue to honour its obligation to make a contribution to the defence of the West. This will require active participation in NATO forces.<sup>3</sup>

At the CSCE Follow-up Meeting in Vienna on 19 January, Mr. Clark pledged that Canada would play a full role in the conventional arms control negotiating process, seeking imaginative solutions to complex problems. He also mentioned briefly the valuable role the MBFR talks had played in preparation for the upcoming discussions:

The Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions talks were a pioneering attempt to arrive at conventional arms control measures in a crucial area of Europe. Much of what has been learned from the successes and failures during the many years of these talks will prove useful in the new negotiations.<sup>4</sup>

In her speech to mark the opening of the new negotiations on 7 March 1989, Associate Defence Minister Mary Collins suggested that the new Soviet concept of "reasonable sufficiency" intimated a shift in Eastern strategy and a growing appreciation for the West's defensive military approach. Ms. Collins placed particular emphasis on verification measures, noting:

It will not be sufficient to work toward agreement on reduction measures and subsequently to attempt to devise verification measures. It will be necessary to examine closely the verification implications of all proposals under negotiation to ensure that compliance with agreements *can* be verified.

She continued:

In Canada, we will devote considerable resources to this aspect of the negotiations; we have in the past shared the results of our research with the international community. We hope that other nations will devote similar efforts to these important issues. In both negotiations, Canada will be active in devising means to ensure the reliable verification of any agreement.<sup>5</sup>

Following President Bush's proposal of 29 May 1989, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney indicated his approval: "I think it is an impressive proposal worthy of serious consideration."<sup>6</sup>

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3 Secretary of State for External Affairs, *Statement 89/02* (13 January 1989), p.5.

4 Secretary of State for External Affairs, *Statement 89/03* (19 January 1989), p. 2.

5 Secretary of State for External Affairs, *Statement 89/09* (7 March 1989), pp. 4-6.

6 Patrick Doyle, "Canadians Claim Credit for Selling U.S. Arms Plan." *The Toronto Star*, 30 May 1989, p. 14.