

Symposium Examines European Verification Issues

The CFE Treaty, signed in Paris on November 19, 1990, constitutes the most significant multilateral arms control and disarmament agreement to date. This Treaty and the Vienna Document on confidence- and security-building measures, signed at the same time, provide the foundation for a radically-changed European security framework.

As Treaty provisions are implemented, with all the definitional and procedural problems likely to arise, follow-on negotiations will continue in Vienna

CFE follow-on talks, CSBM negotiations and Open Skies negotiations provide the focus for verification leading to the 1992 CSCE Helsinki follow-up meeting.

with the same mandate and with the goal of building on the CFE Treaty. The 22 state parties will seek to conclude this second round of negotiations no later than the follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) scheduled for Helsinki in March 1992.

While the objectives for the follow-on — or CFE IA — negotiations include agreement on additional (unspecified) measures aimed at strengthening security and stability in Europe, the CFE Treaty itself identifies areas for further negotiation relating to:

- personnel strength (Article XVIII) — developing measures to limit the personnel strength of armed forces within the area of application; and
- aerial inspection (Article XIV) — achieving a regime that will provide procedures for conducting an agreed number of aerial inspections within the area of application.

Two other negotiations will have an effect on the CFE arms control agreement(s) and requisite verification process as the CSCE follow-up meeting approaches:

(a) The Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBM) negotiations: all 34 CSCE participating states have agreed to continue negotiations in accordance with the mandate of the Madrid and Vienna CSCE follow-up meetings with the objective of building on and expanding the results already achieved in the Stockholm and Vienna Documents.

(b) The Open Skies negotiations: a solid basis for an Open Skies agreement has been developed by the work accomplished at the Ottawa and Budapest Conferences in 1990. The signing of the CFE Treaty has simplified the negotiating landscape and increased the attrac-

tiveness of an Open Skies agreement. Nevertheless, the two regimes are qualitatively different. Open Skies is and must remain a confidence-building measure while aerial inspection should be geared to detecting and identifying armaments in the context of the CFE Treaty. There is a good deal of overlap, however, and any attempt to elaborate the two regimes (CFE aerial inspection and Open Skies) should strive to avoid duplication.

With these developments in mind, York University's Centre for International and Strategic Studies was invited to host the Eighth Annual Ottawa Verification Symposium from March 6 to 10 as part of EAITC's Verification Research Program. Entitled "Towards Helsinki 1992: Arms Control in Europe and the Verification Process," the Symposium focused on the conventional arms control process at the outset of the resumption of the CFE IA, CSBM and Open Skies negotiations, in a manner that permitted the participants to draw upon existing experience to identify areas of commonality (to facilitate agreement) and areas to be considered (particularly in the negotiating process).

The Symposium brought together 44 government, industry and academic experts from six countries including the USSR, as well as from two international organizations. The proceedings should be available from the Centre for International and Strategic Studies this summer. ■

NATO Information Director Visits Ottawa

NATO's Director of Information and Press, Dr. Erika Bruce, a Canadian, visited Ottawa on February 5 to promote NATO Information Program activities. In her meetings with EAITC and National Defence officials, Dr. Bruce carried a strong message of encouragement for Canadians to take advantage of the many opportunities offered under NATO's Information Program to learn more about the Atlantic alliance and its evolving role in the new Europe. Activities such as the Visits, Speakers and Fellowships Programs have been particularly effective in promoting public interest in NATO and security issues both in North America and Europe.

Dr. Bruce also shared her enthusiasm for NATO activities designed to enhance cooperation and friendship with the newly-emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and the USSR. Information Program initiatives such as the Democratic Institutions Fellowship Program and the April 1991 Prague Seminar on the Future of European Security have been immensely successful in achieving this goal. Dr. Bruce expressed optimism that Canada would continue to play a leading role in promoting NATO outreach to its former Warsaw Treaty adversaries.

For further information about NATO Information Program activities, contact the Defence Relations Division, EAITC, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G2. ■