

and two years later the new White Paper indicated a determination to concentrate Canada's land force operations even more strongly on defence of the Central Front in Germany. The CAST commitment to Norway was to be given up within about five years, and Canadian Forces Europe were to be strengthened by augmenting 4 CMBG, dedicating a second brigade group in Canada for rapid reinforcement in a crisis, and stationing advance units of the new second brigade group in Germany. Thus a complete Canadian division would be made available for service in Europe. In addition, the Government indicated its intention to carry out a wholesale re-equipment and enhancement of these two brigade groups as well as the other land forces in Canada. The ACE Mobile Force commitment to northern Norway and Denmark was maintained (although subsequently the Denmark sub-commitment was dropped). The Reserves, as well as the Regular Force, were to be built up and equipped with modern light-armoured vehicles and other up-to-date materiel.

The 1987 White Paper was published just as East-West relations were undergoing rapid change for the better. The plans for strengthening Canadian Forces Europe and the Army in general were questioned severely almost from the outset, and two years later were made redundant by the upheavals and revolutions which swept Central and Eastern Europe. The prospect of conventional arms control in Europe as well as budgetary pressures in Ottawa made much of the White Paper obsolete by the end of the decade, including the idea of acquiring a new generation of main battle tanks as the core equipment item for the Army in Europe. A Senate Defence Committee report on Canada's land forces, published in October 1989, had the advantage of clearer indications about the future of East-West relations, but even its recommendations for a "defensive-defence" or air-mobile Canadian military force in Europe were soon overtaken by the incredible pace of the political upheavals sweeping the continent. The government decided to withdraw 1,400 troops and airmen from Europe during 1991.

With the signing of an agreement on the reduction of conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE I) in November 1990, the question of future tasks and requirements for the Canadian Army was posed even more starkly than before. Although cuts in 4 CMBG