

- partial legal precedents for an "Open Skies" regime do exist in the relevant agreements on international civil aviation as well as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) and Stockholm Confidence-Building treaties. Moreover, because of the need to bring commitments undertaken in an "Open Skies" regime into line with national law in the participating states, an "Open Skies" Treaty would be preferable to an agreement.

The Ottawa Conference

In keeping with the leadership role that it has played in promoting "Open Skies" Canada will host the first Conference on the subject. It is envisaged that the Conference will begin in Ottawa on February 12, 1990 and last for some three weeks. The Ottawa Conference will be very much a work oriented gathering, whose intention will be to identify and solve the problems associated with establishing an "Open Skies" in a business-like manner. Following a break, the delegations will reassemble in Budapest to resolve whatever questions may remain from the Ottawa Conference, and sign the Treaty.

The Ottawa Conference will be opened by the Foreign Ministers of the 23 NATO and WTO states. This will be the first time these ministers have met outside of Europe, as indeed, it will be the first conference of its type hosted by Canada. The