

will be divided into two portions: a ministerial session from February 12 to 14, at which the foreign ministers of all 23 NATO and WTO states will be present; and an official session from February 15 to 28, during which teams of officials from each country will carry out the negotiations. The Conference will be opened by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark will host the ministerial portion of the Conference. The head of the Canadian delegation at the official level will be Mr. John Noble, Director General of the International Security and Arms Control Bureau of External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC).

The Ottawa Conference will be a work-oriented gathering, the purpose of which will be to establish the outlines of an Open Skies regime. The negotiations are expected to be concluded and an agreement signed at a second Open Skies Conference, likely to be held later in 1990 in Budapest, Hungary.

Canada offered to host the first Open Skies conference because of its commitment to improving East-West relations. It has long viewed Open Skies as a valuable proposal which, once implemented, will enhance both Canadian and international security and speed progress in arms control. In addition, Canada's longstanding expertise and credibility in the field of verification, both at NATO and in the UN, made the country a natural leader on the Open Skies issue.

The Ottawa Conference will be the first major East-West gathering of the 1990s, and the first meeting of the NATO and WTO foreign ministers since the dramatic events that swept Europe in the fall of 1989. As such, it will help to set the tone of East-West relations for the coming decade. Canada intends to work vigorously to ensure that the Conference, and its follow-up in Budapest, result in an Open Skies agreement that can form the basis of a new East-West security relationship characterized by openness and

cooperation rather than secrecy and competition.

## Why Open Skies?

Canada has been a strong supporter of Open Skies since the idea's inception. Not only will an Open Skies agreement benefit its immediate signatories, it will also contribute to the cause of international peace and security by improving the prospects for East-West stability. The benefits of Open Skies are outlined below.

**Independent monitoring:** An Open Skies agreement will allow participants that do not have surveillance satellites — including Canada — to independently monitor areas of particular interest or concern. The technology and facilities for aerial surveillance are well within the reach of all members of NATO and the WTO. Open Skies will let these states determine for themselves whether agreements are being adhered to and whether their security is being threatened.

**Burden-sharing:** An Open Skies agreement will provide an opportunity for Canada and the USA to demonstrate their willingness to shoulder some of the intrusive monitoring that the emerging era of greater political openness and conventional arms control is going to require of their European allies.

**Confidence-building:** Open Skies will play an extremely significant role in building confidence between the states of East and West in the 1990s. An Open Skies agreement will enable all members of the two alliances to satisfy themselves regarding the peaceful intentions of the other side. It would be virtually impossible to hide plans for a conventional attack from frequent, random reconnaissance flights.

**Spur to arms control:** Because the decision to participate in Open Skies is, in fact, a decision about a country's

commitment to openness in its military relations, an Open Skies agreement will help to create the political climate necessary for rapid progress in arms control. In addition, although the Open Skies agreement will be negotiated and will stand separately from any arms control agreement, short-notice overflights would help to fulfill the verification requirements of both a strategic nuclear arms agreement and a conventional arms agreement. Open Skies would allow participants to monitor ongoing activities such as weapons destruction, troop withdrawals and troop movements. Overflights would have to be supplemented by on-site inspection, but the result would be a very high confidence in compliance.

## Acronyms Used in this Issue

ADM — Assistant Deputy Minister  
 CBC — Canadian Broadcasting Corporation  
 CD — Conference on Disarmament  
 CDE — Conference on Disarmament in Europe  
 CFB — Canadian Forces Base  
 CFE — Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe  
 CSBM — Confidence- and Security-Building Measure  
 CSCE — Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe  
 CTBT — Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty  
 EAITC — External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
 ICAO — International Civil Aviation Organization  
 ICO — Open Skies Conference Task Force  
 INF — Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces  
 NATO — North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
 RCMP — Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
 START — Strategic Arms Reduction Talks  
 UN — United Nations  
 UNGA — United Nations General Assembly  
 WTO — Warsaw Treaty Organization