

PREFACE

Douglas Hamlin is a former director of arms control and disarmament in the Department of External Affairs. This paper is based on research conducted by the author in his capacity as Senior Fellow at the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. The views contained in the paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Institute and its Board of Directors.

In the last quarter of 1989 political change of unimaginable dimensions swept across Eastern Europe and altered the entire East-West security environment. NATO and the Warsaw Pact continued, but as one hard-line Communist regime after another toppled, there was increasing talk about such issues as a New Atlanticism, new architectures for European order and German reunification. Politics and popular aspirations were in the driving seat pushing events along and setting the agenda.

At the same time, remarkable developments were underway in the field of arms control. By Autumn 1989, it had become clear that the NATO and Warsaw Pact delegations, meeting in Vienna, were rapidly heading towards the greatest arms reduction agreement in history. The delegations attached to the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) had already set out similar positions on each of the fundamental issues, and were expected to be approved at some point in the near future, a complete accord being reached by the summer or autumn of 1990.

These negotiations address a confrontation which has been at the centre of East-West rivalry for the last forty years. They deal with an issue involving not only fifty per cent of the world's military expenditure, but also the lives of millions of people exposed to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

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CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE: CANADIAN OBJECTIVES

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