

been able to accept the latest western proposal.

As far as the presence of western European forces on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany is concerned, we would not accept a treatment of these forces which would imply that their presence there is basically an abnormality, which has no place in a new European security architecture and should be ended at a certain point of time.

On the contrary, as I said before, the process of European integration is destined to become one of the solid cornerstones of the new architecture. And the stationed troops of the members of the European Community, which have set themselves the goal of a European union, can in our view, therefore, not logically be included in a ceiling on stationed troops.

Our common commitment to an early conclusion of the CFE negotiations offers us no other option, I think, than to grasp every opportunity to give a further impetus to our negotiators in Vienna. I therefore propose that we agree here in Ottawa, as political representatives of our countries, to commit ourselves to the conclusion of the CFE negotiations in the course of this year.

Undoubtedly, it will prove to be a truly Herculean task to complete all the technical details of the treaty within the time limits we have set ourselves. All the more reason, I would say, for us to try to identify common elements during our meetings here on the basis of which our negotiators in Vienna can then proceed further. In this context I would like to draw your attention to the step the Netherlands took in Vienna in October last year. When the negotiators in Vienna agreed on a definition of artillery, the Netherlands decided to voluntarily provide the participants with informal information on the Netherlands' artillery holdings in the area of application. Our initiative was generally welcomed and I, therefore, propose that all participating countries agree to provide, during the negotiations, on a voluntary and informal basis, all the relevant information on national holdings of treaty limited equipment. To start with, this may apply to artillery.

After the pertaining definitions have been agreed upon, this could be extended to other categories of treaty limited items.

By a process in which an ever-widening group of countries would, on an informal basis, gradually release information on their holdings, we would not only make it possible to gain further insight into the structure and numbers of the armed forces present in Europe, but we would also gain valuable experience and pave the way for the formal exchange of data which will take place at the signing of the Treaty. And this, in my opinion, will be an important element in ensuring the immediate smooth implementation of the Treaty.