

# News Release

# Communiqué

Department of  
External  
Affairs



Ministère des  
Affaires  
extérieures

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COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS ON  
CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL IN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada, at the opening sessions of the two new negotiations on conventional arms control in Vienna, tabled a series of proposals aimed at enhancing stability in Europe. Canada tabled these proposals on behalf of all the states members of the NATO Alliance.

In the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), Mr. Clark noted that Canada and its Western Allies seek: the establishment of a secure and stable balance of conventional forces at lower levels; the elimination of disparities prejudicial to stability; and the elimination of the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action. To achieve these ends, we have proposed: a radical reduction in the overall levels of those weapons systems most relevant to surprise attack and offensive action (main battle tanks to 40,000; artillery to 33,000; armoured troop carriers to 56,000); a limit on the amounts of these armaments which can be held by any one country (no more than 30% of the overall limits); and additional limits on armaments stationed outside a country's national territory in active units (main battle tanks 3,200; artillery 1,700; armoured troop carriers 6,000). We have also proposed an annual exchange of information regarding military holdings and troop levels, and have underlined the need for stabilizing measures and rigorous verification arrangements.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada