

Through this arduous and protracted effort, she stated: "No arms control undertaking has ever started off on a firmer footing than the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures..."⁴ She continued by saying that the signs for an agreement were encouraging. The successful conclusion of the Stockholm Agreement and its implementation presented reason for optimism. Regarding the latter she remarked:

Canadian soldiers are among those who have been inspected and observed, and have themselves participated in observations. These observations have contributed materially to the heightened sense of confidence which now exists; they have helped entrench such important gains as the right to on-site inspection.

The pattern of observation and contacts among military personnel that has been established is unprecedented in both its nature and scope. A great opportunity exists to enhance this new climate for trust and cooperation. We must build carefully and well on this foundation.⁵

Canada has sent observers to every exercise attended by the West.

On 7 June 1989, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Patrick Boyer, told the House of Commons:

...this Vienna concluding document represents an historic milestone in the process of the Conference on Co-operation and Security in Europe [sic]. The document contains new and expanded commitments in the fields of military security, human rights and contacts, and humanitarian and economic co-operation. Taken together, these Vienna provisions for which Canada negotiated hard, and to which Canada is firmly committed, will help to move the European and North American states toward greater levels of mutual security and co-operation.⁶

The first Canadian challenge inspection of a military exercise was announced on 13 June 1989. The forty-eight-hour inspection was to take place in Czechoslovakia beginning on 14 June. The announcement stated that, given Canada's interest and recognized expertise in the field of verification, NATO Ministers believed Canada could contribute constructively to the CSBM process by conducting such an inspection.⁷

In an issue separate but related to the subject of CSBMs, the Canadian Government reported its involvement with the United States in developing and proposing the "Open Skies" plan made public by President Bush on 11 May 1989. Essentially, a confidence-building measure would allow short-notice overflights of North American and European territory by unarmed aircraft as a means to enhance arms control verification and improve transparency between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Following President Bush's

⁴ Secretary of State for External Affairs, *Statement* 89/09 (7 March 1989), p. 2.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁶ *Commons Debates*, 7 June 1989, p. 2717.

⁷ Government of Canada, *News Release* No. 138 (13 June 1989), p. B2.