

## CFE Update

Resolution of the counting rules dispute cleared the way for CFE 1A negotiators to begin substantive work on satisfying obligations contained in Article XVIII of the CFE Treaty. Priority attention has been given to developing measures to limit personnel strength.

Following the summer break, CFE 1A negotiations resumed in September. Work proceeded on defining the categories of personnel whose numbers will be limited, on determining cost sharing for verification activities, and on producing standardized report formats. Simultaneously, participants agreed on how to reconcile CFE provisions with the independence of the Baltic states.

A legally-binding agreement on the Baltics was reached at a meeting of the CFE's Joint Consultative Group held on October 18. It was agreed that the CFE area of application did not include the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In addition, signatories accepted the USSR's undertaking to apply CFE provisions to its forces while these were present on the territories of the newly independent Baltic states.

In November, CFE 1A negotiators added stabilizing measures to the list of topics under consideration. NATO's High Level Task Force had done considerable preparatory work on one set of measures which was tabled for consideration. This included proposals to place limitations on the future call-up of reservists, and to obligate states to notify permanent increases in the personnel strengths of military units.

As 1992 began, CFE signatories increasingly turned their attention to the consequences of the dissolution of the former USSR. Participants began to consider how the CFE obligations and entitlements of the USSR could be apportioned among the independent republics, and what legal mechanisms would be appropriate to ensure that the treaty is ratified by the individual members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. At the suggestion of the German foreign minister, the newly formed North Atlantic Cooperation Council set up a working group to begin discussions on these issues with representatives of the relevant republics. ■

## Post-Helsinki Security Negotiations

*In a communique issued following their meeting of December 19, NATO foreign ministers made the following comments about establishing new negotiations on disarmament and confidence- and security-building at the CSCE Helsinki Follow-up Meeting, which begins on March 24.*

The Helsinki meeting will mark a turning point in the arms control and disarmament process in Europe, and we are actively engaged in developing a common approach. The CSCE Council of Ministers on 19th-20th June 1991 launched informal preparatory consultations aimed at establishing at the Helsinki Follow-Up Meeting new negotiations on disarmament and confidence- and security-building. They decided that formal preparatory negotiations for the new forum would take place at the Helsinki Follow-Up Meeting. We have followed closely and participated in these informal preparatory consultations, carefully noting the views of CSCE partners. A broad measure of consensus is already apparent.

In the period leading to the Helsinki meeting and at the meeting itself, we propose that our negotiators and those of our CSCE partners should be guided by the following broad policy objectives:

- in order to achieve our goal of a new cooperative order in which no country need harbour fears for its security, we should establish a European security forum in a manner which preserves the autonomy and distinct character of the various different elements in the process, but which also ensures coherence between them;
- we should strengthen security and stability through the negotiation of concrete measures aimed at keeping the levels of armed forces in Europe to the minimum commensurate with common and individual legitimate security needs, within Europe and beyond: these may entail further reductions of armed forces;
- we should institute a permanent security dialogue, in which participants will be able to address legitimate security concerns, and which will foster a new quality of transparency and cooperation about armed forces and defence policies. This dialogue should contribute to the strengthening of the achievements of the Helsinki process in the field of security; and
- we should enhance the ability of CSCE institutions, including the Conflict Prevention Centre, to reduce the risk of conflict through the full and open implementation of agreed measures in the security field, and through the elaboration of relevant conflict prevention and crisis management techniques.

We consider it important that, in addition to setting the broad objectives for the new process, the Helsinki Follow-Up Meeting should establish a concrete work program for the first phase of the process. In our view, early attention should be given to:

- the appropriate harmonization of arms control obligations in Europe, which will provide a basis for consideration of further limitations and, to the extent possible, reductions of armed forces;
- negotiated confidence-building and cooperative measures, designed to ensure greater transparency and predictability in military affairs;
- cooperation to support and enhance existing multilateral non-proliferation regimes, including in the field of transfer of conventional weapons; and
- enhancement of mechanisms and instruments for conflict prevention and crisis management.

We envisage that some measures may appropriately be devised on a selective or regional basis.