

THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

UPDATE ON THE VIENNA FOLLOWUP MEETING

- The Vienna Followup Meeting has held three sessions during 1987 and will resume in late January 1988.
- During the Second Session (January 27--April 10) over 150 proposals were tabled covering all aspects of the CSCE process.
- In the "human dimension", Canada sponsored proposals on the human rights and contacts of minorities, and on family reunification and travel. We cosponsored Western proposals on terrorism, freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, freedom of movement, freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, and exile, the role of individuals and groups, and for an information forum.
- Canada also cosponsored the Western proposal for follow-up in human rights and human contacts, which includes, inter alia: an undertaking by governments to receive representations from individuals and groups on human rights questions; bilateral meetings on specific problems; meetings of all 35 participating states on the request of one to discuss serious problems; and an Experts' Meeting to evaluate the system, propose new measures, and decide on the date and place of a Conference on the Human Dimension.
- In Basket II Canada sponsored proposals on scientific freedoms and cosponsored Western proposals on commercial information and statistics, business contacts, countertrade, tourism, and biotechnology, as well as Scandanavian proposals on air pollution and the preservation of the ozone layer.
- The Warsaw Pact countries responded in the human dimension with proposals on selected economic and social rights and intergovernmental humanitarian cooperation. In Basket II they attacked alleged Western restrictions on trade and technology transfer and stressed joint ventures.
- In the security dimension the NATO countries invited the Warsaw Pact countries to informal discussions in Vienna to develop a mandate for negotiations to achieve stability between East and West in conventional armed forces at lower levels.
- The Third Session (May 5-July 31) made no progress in arriving at agreed texts, but conducted extensive informal discussion, under the guidance of coordinators from Neutral and Non-aligned (NNA) countries, of the wide and complex array of proposals.