

There would be continuing costs associated with an arrangement for secure storage of equipment in Europe.¹¹⁵

Though agreements on conventional forces would be unlikely to enable Canada to save a significant proportion of the cost of maintaining forces in Europe, which was over one billion dollars in Financial Year 1988/89, reductions in military expenditure by some other Western countries made possible by arms control and disarmament agreement could benefit Canada indirectly particularly if the United States was able to cut its military expenditure.

* * * * *

On the assumption that public attention to negotiations on conventional forces in Europe will be greater than in the past and that the need for public support throughout the negotiating process will also increase, the foregoing discussion of factors suggests an objective of a different order: to present publicly and effectively the politico-military objectives, the links between defence and arms control and disarmament policy, the interrelationship between the conventional and nuclear balance of forces, the Western approach to limiting and reducing conventional forces and the positive way in which the Soviet Union has been responding to that approach. To a considerable extent, the optimism about the prospects for the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is a direct result of the Soviet Union embracing Western positions on such subjects as asymmetrical reductions and verification.

In order to realize this objective, it will be necessary for a public presentation programme to emphasize the longer-term goal of replacing the existing military confrontation through, for example, the elaboration of the elements of a different security regime. It will also be necessary to explain the way in which arms control and disarmament negotiations can contribute towards reaching that goal through a step-by-step approach.

¹¹⁵ See above p. 53.