

CSCE Summit Results in Charter of Paris for a New Europe



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (seated at right) with US President George Bush (centre) and US Secretary of State James Baker (left) at the CSCE Summit in Paris.

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From November 19 to 21, 1990, leaders of the 34 participating countries of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) gathered in Paris for a summit meeting to mark the end of the Cold War and inaugurate the new Europe. In addition to providing opportunity for the signing of the CFE Treaty and the Joint Declaration of 22 (see articles elsewhere in this *Bulletin*), the Summit resulted in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, which enhances and strengthens the CSCE to meet the challenge of building a cooperative security framework in a dramatically-changing Europe.

The Charter celebrates the merging of two Europes into one that, in the words of French President François Mitterand, shares the same vision of the world. It expresses a sense of solidarity among the CSCE countries and starts the process of putting into place machin-

ery to reflect that solidarity and give it greater substance, so that the end of a bipolar Europe does not bring with it another era of interstate or intrastate conflict.

The Charter has three sections. The first contains a commitment to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy; pledges a new era of friendly relations among the participating states; endorses a substantial new set of confidence- and security-building measures; looks forward to further progress in negotiations on military security; defines the broad lines of future cooperation in order to build a "new European unity"; and concludes with a declaration of support for the UN and for global solidarity.

The second section of the Charter sets out the future course for the CSCE. It defines the arms control and disarmament agenda over the next year and a half; suggests expert meetings to dis-

cuss cooperation in strengthening democratic institutions and protection and promotion of national minorities; and reaffirms commitments regarding the elimination of racial or ethnic hatred (including anti-semitism), the protection of human rights, and cooperation in the cultural, economic and environmental spheres.

The third section deals with the development of the structure of the CSCE process and consists of a list of decisions regarding: regular consultations at the political and senior officials levels; the establishment of a Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna, a small secretariat in Prague and an Office for Free Elections in Warsaw; work programs regarding other possible institutions (such as a CSCE Assembly); and experts' meetings on minorities (Geneva, June 1991) and democratic institutions (Oslo, November 1991).

The Summit thus met Canadian aims in recommitting CSCE states to the still seminal principles of the Helsinki Final Act and in taking the first steps towards institutionalizing the CSCE. As Prime Minister Brian Mulroney noted in his address at Paris on November 19, the Summit "launches a...structure that stands for liberty and democracy and justice and opportunity."

The Summit also reinforced the transatlantic link, affirming in very clear terms that "the participation of both North American and European states is a fundamental characteristic of the CSCE; it underlies its past achievements and is essential to the future of the CSCE process. An abiding adherence to shared values and our common heritage are the ties which bind us together..."

The CSCE, begun in 1975 with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, brings together Canada, the United States and all European countries (except Albania) in a cooperative forum to discuss the full range of issues affecting their mutual relations. ■

CFE and Open Skies

The CFE Treaty commits parties to negotiate an aerial inspection regime for verification of Treaty measures, which would go into effect at the beginning of the so-called residual phase of implementation, i.e., after the reductions mandated by the Treaty have been completed. The relationship between the proposed CFE aerial inspection regime and Open Skies, as well as the future of Open Skies in light of CFE, are discussed in the following excerpts from a statement made by Ambassador David Peel, head of the Canadian delegation to the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, in Vienna on December 6, 1990.

A number of speakers last week noted the complementary nature of Open Skies and aerial inspections. There is indeed a good deal of overlap