

equipment; the weapons dismantled, with their engines salvaged for civilian use; and foreign observers invited to watch the demobilization and destruction.

The day after Gorbachev's UN speech, the NATO foreign ministers meeting in Brussels revealed elements of a new Western proposal for reducing conventional forces in Europe. Focussing on weapons rather than manpower, these included:

- overall cuts of about fifty percent in various categories of armaments. For example, tanks would be limited to "about 40,000" in Europe as a whole. If equal levels on each side were envisaged, as suggested by various top officials, this would require cuts of at least 37,000 for the Warsaw Pact, as compared to just 2,000 for NATO. Similarly disproportionate reductions would be required in the case of artillery and armoured troop carriers, in order to achieve equality at a level slightly below what the West maintains now; and
- national sub-limits amounting to perhaps thirty percent of the total holdings in any category – for example, no more than 12,000 tanks. This would require the USSR to eliminate 15,000 tanks more than announced by Gorbachev in New York.

During December and January, Soviet allies Hungary, Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria all announced unilateral reductions of between ten and seventeen percent in their defence budgets, as well as cuts in manpower, tanks, and combat aircraft. East German leader Erich Honecker revealed that four of the six Soviet tank divisions to be withdrawn, as well as an air-assault brigade, would come from the front line in East Germany. Most Western military experts agreed that such withdrawals would be "militarily significant" and would greatly reduce the threat of surprise attack.

Finally, after more than two years, the Vienna review conference of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) ended on 17 January, with the signing of a Concluding Document establishing two new sets of arms control negotiations begin-

ning in Vienna in March. The first of these, the "Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe," will involve the twenty-three members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Replacing the fruit-

verification, arms transfers, the nuclear freeze, outer space, and the furnishing of objective information on military matters (the latter merging a UK draft with one sponsored by the Warsaw Pact

Moscow, the USSR and West Germany signed a Treaty on the Prevention of Incidents on the High Seas. The agreement, similar to earlier ones the USSR has with the US and UK, provides for regulations governing manoeuvres by warships, the exchange of information on incidents, and regular consultations between the two navies.

■ As of 19 December, under the INF Treaty, the USSR had destroyed 84 SS-20, 248 SS-12, and 28 SS-4 intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs), and 80 SS-CX-4 ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs). The US had destroyed 70 Pershing IA and 18 Pershing II IRBMs, and 84 GLCMs. Belgium became the first NATO country to be cleared of INF missiles with the withdrawal of 16 GLCMs on 13 December.

■ On 25 January, Canadian Defence Minister Perrin Beatty announced that Canada had invited Soviet officials to visit the chemical weapons research establishment at Suffield, Alberta, and to observe the destruction of old CW stocks. He disclosed that all but a small amount of the current Canadian stockpile of sixteen tons would be destroyed over a period of three years, following environmental impact hearings. A spokesman for the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa indicated the Canadian invitation would be accepted and thought it "quite likely we will invite Canadian officials to inspect our facilities."

■ In late December it was disclosed that the US would invite Israel and Egypt to separate talks in Washington on limiting the development and use of ballistic missiles in the Middle East. Proposed measures include advance notice of missile test launchings to reduce fears of surprise attack.

■ During the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to Moscow in early December, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze announced that the two countries had agreed to form a "military and diplomatic experts group" to discuss methods of force reduction along their common border. □

– RON PURVER

Early Warning

9 March: opening of Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Vienna

April-May: NATO Nuclear Planning Group meeting, Brussels

1-5 May: first Preparatory Committee meeting for the 1990 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, New York

less fifteen-year-old MBFR talks, they will cover the whole of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals. A second forum, the "Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures," is the successor to the Stockholm Conference successfully concluded in 1986, and will involve all thirty-five CSCE participants.

Canada and Arms Control at the UN General Assembly

■ The 43rd General Assembly of the UN on 7 December considered seventy-two draft resolutions on disarmament and security issues recommended by its First Committee. Of forty-four resolutions put to a vote, Canada voted in favour of twenty-four, against five, and abstained on fifteen. Its position differed from that of the US on no fewer than thirty of the forty-four (sixty-eight percent). Canada introduced one resolution (43/75K), calling on the CD to consider the issue of prohibiting the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. It passed by a vote of 144 to 1 (France), with seven abstentions. Canada co-sponsored sixteen other resolutions. Its five negative votes were cast against resolutions on the security of non-nuclear states (43/68); the nuclear freeze (43/76B); prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons (43/76E); the no-first-use of nuclear weapons (43/78B); and cessation of the nuclear arms race (43/78E).

Canadian Disarmament Ambassador Douglas Roche, who chaired the First Committee, identified its most significant achievements as being: the merging of competing draft resolutions on

states); three consensus resolutions on CW; a resolution on arms transfers, which Roche described as a "breakthrough"; and resolutions on the dumping of industrial and nuclear wastes in Africa. The two most difficult areas, according to Roche, were outer space and the comprehensive test ban (CTB). Canada abstained on resolutions 43/63A calling for the CD to begin negotiations on a CTB Treaty, and 43/63B welcoming the proposed conversion of the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) into a comprehensive ban. France, the UK, and US voted against both resolutions, with only the USSR, among the nuclear weapon states, voting in favour. Resolution 43/64, calling on the CD to "intensify" work on the subject and for wider adherence to the PTBT, was co-sponsored by Canada and passed by 146-2-6, with the US and France opposed. Canada also voted for Resolution 43/70, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which passed by 154 to 1 (the United States), with no abstentions.

Brief Notes

■ On 31 December, India and Pakistan signed an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations, including nuclear power and research facilities and uranium enrichment plants. As part of the agreement, the two countries will notify each other annually of the exact location of such facilities.

■ On 25 October, during German Chancellor Kohl's visit to