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# The Disarmament Bulletin

A review of Canada's arms control and disarmament activities

Dept. of External Affairs  
Min. des Affaires extérieures  
OTTAWA  
MAR 14 1990  
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Number 12 - Winter 1989/90

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## Open Skies:

### Canada Hosts Major Negotiation

From February 12 to 28, 1990, Canada will play host to its 15 NATO allies and the seven member-states of the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) as these two groups negotiate an agreement providing for regular overflight of each others' territory using unarmed surveillance aircraft.

Open Skies, as the concept is called, is not an arms control proposal *per se*. No arms will be limited or reduced as a direct result of an Open Skies agreement. Rather, Open Skies is a confidence-building measure. Its purpose is to increase the openness of the two sides

### Agreement will strengthen NATO-WTO cooperation

about their military activities, and thus strengthen the developing atmosphere of cooperation between NATO and the WTO and enhance the feeling of security of all participating states.

Although Open Skies will be negotiated separately from any arms control agreement, the arrangement is likely to contribute significantly to the verification of a range of existing and future arms control agreements. Indeed, Canada believes that Open Skies will be a useful adjunct to the verification methods eventually agreed to in a treaty on the reduction of conventional armed forces in Europe.

The government favours a broad Open Skies agreement, with as few restrictions as possible. Although the original agreement will be negotiated among the states of NATO and the WTO, nothing should, in principle, preclude other European states from joining Open Skies at some future date.

The Open Skies Conference, to be held in Ottawa,

The Disarmament Bulletin is published periodically by External Affairs and International Trade Canada. It is intended to be a source of information about arms control and disarmament issues to a broad spectrum of Canadians. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list or require additional copies, please write to:

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Ottawa, Ontario  
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— ISSN 0715-7134 —

Cette publication existe également en français.

External Affairs and  
International Trade Canada

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