

Vienna Document on CSBMs Adopted at Paris Summit

Package Supersedes Stockholm Document

The Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) reached a milestone in November 1990 with the adoption of a significant package of measures by the 34 participating states at the CSCE Summit in Paris. The package, known as the Vienna Document, came into effect on January 1, 1991. It supersedes the Stockholm Document of September 1986, which provided for the circulation of annual military calendars, prior notification and observation of certain military activities, and on-site inspections.

Some of the measures in the Vienna Document appear for the first time while others augment those found in the Stockholm Document. Divided into ten sections, the Vienna Document includes provisions for: the annual exchange of military information; risk reduction; improved contacts; prior notification of certain military activities; observation of military activities; circulation of annual exercise calendars; constraining provisions; compliance and verification; improved communications; and the establishment of an annual implementation-assessment meeting.

The section on the annual exchange of military information requires participating states to exchange information concerning the military organization, manpower and major weapon and equipment systems of their forces within the CSBM zone (the whole of Europe). This includes information about whether a unit is active or non-active, its normal peacetime location and strength, and numbers of armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, battle tanks, helicopters, etc. The participating states will also exchange information about plans for the deployment of major weapon and equipment systems within the zone, including information concerning the types and total numbers of weapon systems, and whether the equipment will add to or replace existing equipment. In addition, participating states are required to exchange information on their military budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year.

The section on risk reduction establishes a mechanism whereby participating states will consult and cooperate with each other about any unusual and unscheduled militarily-significant activities of their forces outside of normal peacetime locations. Any participating state with concerns about such an activity may transmit a request for an explanation to the state where the activity is taking place. An explanation must be given within 48 hours.

In the interests of improving contacts between countries, the participating states will, as appropriate, promote and facilitate exchanges, visits and contacts between academics, military personnel and military institutions. As well, the Vienna Document requires each participating state with air combat units to invite representatives of other participating states to visit one of its normal peacetime air bases. This will provide the visitors with the opportunity to view activity at the air base, and to gain an impression of the approximate number of air sorties and types of missions being flown. No state will be obliged to arrange more than one visit in any five-year period.

As an enhancement to the Stockholm Document's provisions on compliance and verification, the Vienna Document allows for information provided under the annual information exchange provisions to be subject to evaluation (similar to a mini-inspection). Each participating state is obliged to accept a quota of one evaluation visit per calendar year for every 60 military units (brigades, regiments) stationed in Europe. No participating state is obliged to accept more than 15 visits per calendar year.

The section on communications provides for the establishment of a network of direct communication among the participating states for the transmission of messages relating to agreed CSBMs, such as information exchange and notification of unusual military activities. The network will complement the existing use of diplomatic channels.

The Vienna Document also requires participating states to hold an annual meeting at the Conflict Prevention Centre (established under the CSCE Charter of Paris, described elsewhere in this *Bulletin*), to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. Discussion will extend to: clarification of questions arising from implementation; operation of agreed measures; and implications arising from the implementation of agreed measures for the process of confidence- and security-building in the framework of the CSCE. The first implementation-assessment meeting will be held in 1991.

The Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures opened in Vienna on March 9, 1989 and will continue under the present mandate until the next CSCE Follow-Up Meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Helsinki in 1992. Canada expects that the Helsinki meeting will see the adoption of a document that expands the Vienna Document and includes a package of new measures to increase transparency about military organization and predictability about military behaviour, with the purpose of more firmly establishing confidence and stability. The Helsinki meeting should also result in a decision concerning the future of the CSBM negotiations: their mandate should either be extended or revised, possibly to incorporate a broader scope.

Canada actively participated in the successful negotiation of the Vienna Document. Canada's experience in the field of verification enabled us to make a special contribution to the design and implementation of a means to evaluate information exchanged. Similarly, Canada's expertise in telecommunications facilitated the development of the parameters for the communications network that will be used for data and information exchange involving both CSBM and CFE issues. Canada will continue to play an active role in the CSBM negotiations, and in the confidence-building process as a whole. ■