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CANADA RATIFIES THE TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that Canada has ratified the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). The Canadian Instrument of Ratification was presented to the Treaty's Depository, the Netherlands, on November 22.

"The CFE Treaty is a key element in Europe's future security and defence relationships," said Mrs. McDougall. "It demonstrates the commitment of signatories to reduce their holdings of conventional military equipment such as tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery, and to co-operate to assure their future security."

Canada's ratification of CFE Treaty follows the call by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) leaders in their Rome Declaration on Peace and Co-operation, for all CFE signatories to promptly ratify and implement the Treaty.

Follow-on negotiations are currently under way in Vienna, as envisaged in the Treaty, with the goal of setting limits on the personnel strength of conventional armed forces. The CFE goal of achieving an aerial-inspection regime is also anticipated at the conclusion of the Open Skies negotiations.

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