

BIBLIOTHEQUE A E

"OPEN SKIES" COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of the Government of Canada, the Foreign Ministers and senior representatives of the Governments of Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America met in Ottawa February 12-14, 1990 to begin negotiation of "Open Skies". Also present at the Ministerial Session were observers of other CSCE states.¹

The Ministers welcomed the accelerating trend toward openness and the reduction of international tensions. In this context, they noted that although an "Open Skies" regime is neither an arms control nor a verification measure per se its successful implementation would encourage reciprocal openness on the part of participating states. It would strengthen confidence among them, reduce the risk of conflict, and enhance the predictability of military activities of the participating states. Finally it would contribute to the process of arms reduction and limitation along with verification measures under arms limitation and reduction agreements and existing observation capabilities. The Ministers noted further that the establishment of an "Open Skies" regime may promote greater openness in the future in other spheres.

Believing that an effective "Open Skies" regime would serve to consolidate improved relations among their countries, the Ministers therefore agreed on the following:

- The "Open Skies" regime will be implemented on a reciprocal and equitable basis which will protect the interests of each participating state, and in accordance with which the participating states will be open to aerial observation. The regime will ensure the maximum possible openness and minimum restrictions for observation flights;

¹ Those present as observers were Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Monaco, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Turkey reserves her position on the status and representation of Cyprus.