

host-observers will be permitted to monitor the sensor operations in an Open Skies regime.

After the overflight, the plane returned to Budapest where officials of the two governments discussed the trial and identified areas for further discus-

sion at the Open Skies Conference. Both Hungary and Canada expressed pleasure with the results of the trial flight, which was itself a small exercise in confidence-building between East and West.

In addition to the flight crew and offi-

cials from the Department of National Defence, the Canadian government sent officials from EAITC and Transport Canada to observe the overflight and participate in discussions on its results. The Canadians left Budapest on January 7. ■

Organizing the Conference: A 'Behind-the-Scenes' Look

Organizing a conference at which the foreign ministers of the 16 NATO and 7 WTO states, between 250 and 500 delegates, and between 500 and 1000 representatives of the Canadian and international media are expected to be present for at least three days is no small matter. This is the job that has fallen to the Open Skies Conference Task Force, or ICO as it is known in the argot of EAITC.

The Task Force is headed by Mr. Bill van Staalduinen of EAITC, who was among the organizers of the three international summits hosted by Canada during 1987 and 1988 (the Francophonie in Quebec City, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver and the Economic Summit in Toronto). In recruiting the ICO team, he has tried to draw as much as possible on the expertise that was built up during those events.

The Task Force numbers approximately 50 people, drawn from the permanent staff of EAITC and other government departments, as well as from the private sector. In the period immediately prior to the Conference, this staff is expected to grow to a total of 100, to meet the day-to-day demands of the Conference itself.

The Task Force is responsible for all physical preparations for the Conference. These range from arranging ministers' motorcades to making sure that the right flags are displayed in the Conference Centre. To help ensure that no tasks are left undone, ICO has divided itself into four major areas: finance and administration; logistics

and protocol; conference operations; and media services.

The finance and administration unit began its work before the rest of the team, preparing estimates for the cost of the Conference and obtaining Treasury Board approval for the expenditure. The unit looks after the staffing, printing, communication, supply and other needs of the Task Force itself, and is responsible for paying Conference bills as they come in.

Accommodation, transportation, conference accreditation and official hospitality fall under the purview of the logistics and protocol unit. Delegates and media will be responsible for their own hotel costs, but ICO has made block bookings at various hotels around Ottawa to ensure that space will be available for all who require it. ICO will also be providing motorcades for all foreign ministers while they are in Ottawa, as well as a car for each delegation, using vehicles obtained under a special arrangement with General Motors of Canada Ltd. The logistics and protocol unit works closely with the RCMP and the Department of National Defence, which will provide drivers for the vehicles, and with the City of Ottawa in mapping out motorcade routes and arranging for police escort.

The logistics and protocol unit is also responsible for conference accreditation. To ensure that unauthorized individuals do not gain access to the site, colour-coded photo-identification cards have to be provided for everyone who will come into contact with the Con-

ference, from hotel staff to heads of delegations.

As suggested by the second half of its name, this unit also looks after meeting ministers as they arrive in Ottawa, organizing dinners hosted by Canada, arranging food services for delegates if they are held up in meetings and providing the other official courtesies required at a gathering of this nature.

The conference operations unit is responsible for providing a facility for the Conference — in this case the Government Conference Centre — as well as a facility for the numerous media expected. It takes care of equipping these facilities for the Conference — providing furniture, communication links, electronic systems for speakers and interpreters, for example — and makes sure that necessary support services, such as an emergency medical team, will be available during the Conference.

The conference operations unit also looks after the provision of liaison officers for the Conference. These are regular foreign service officers from EAITC who will work with the individual delegations prior to and during the Conference to ensure that all of their conference needs are met.

ICO has to make sure the media will be able to do its job, and this is the task that falls to the media services unit. The old National Gallery in Ottawa, known as the Lorne Building, will be turned into a media centre for the duration of the Conference, complete with studios for radio and television broadcasters as