

## CFE Update

On June 5 in Oslo, foreign ministers of the parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), including Canada's Barbara McDougall, signed a document that provides a basis for resuming progress towards entry into force of CFE. The Final Document of the Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties formally acknowledges the appearance of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine in place of the USSR, and takes note of the agreements reached by those states on the apportionment of all CFE rights and obligations of the former USSR. CFE will enter into force 10 days after the last of the 29 parties has ratified the Treaty.

In Vienna, negotiators hope to conclude work on a CFE 1A agreement in time for the results to be approved at the CSCE summit in Helsinki on July 9. The goal of CFE 1A is to achieve limits on a national basis of the personnel strength of conventional armed forces within the CFE area of application. Participants hope that in the new negotiations among CSCE states on disarmament and confidence- and security-building, which are to begin in September, the achievements of CFE can contribute to the development of a common regime to which all CSCE states will adhere. ■

## Briefly Noted...

### Ex-Soviet export controls

Canada, in conjunction with a number of its G7 partners and Australia, sent a delegation in May to several countries of the former USSR to describe national export control systems and international cooperation in the conventional, biological, chemical, nuclear and missile areas. The visiting delegations urged their hosts to adhere to international non-proliferation regimes and offered to assist the new states in setting up their own effective export control systems.

## BTWC verification

Verification experts from Canada and 52 other countries met in Geneva March 30 to April 10 to begin identifying measures that could determine whether a State Party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) is in compliance with its obligations. The experts compiled lists of potential measures in three areas: development; acquisition or production; and stockpiling or retention. They are now examining these measures in relation to a number of criteria, including strengths and weaknesses, resource requirements and availability, and financial and legal implications. The experts will meet to review their respective findings in late November, with a view to concluding their work in 1993.

## UNDC

Delegates to the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) made mixed progress during this year's session, held April 20 to May 11 in New York. They produced a consensus report on "objective information on military matters," containing detailed recommendations for increased transparency in areas such as military spending, arms transfers and procurement practices. In drafting sessions chaired by Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason, delegates also arrived at a report that modestly expands common ground on issues related to the transfer of sensitive technologies. Less ambitiously, the working group on nuclear disarmament agreed on a structure of work for next year, while the group dealing with regional disarmament remained mired in conflicting approaches.

## Hemispheric security

The Organization of American States (OAS) Working Group on Cooperation for Hemispheric Security — established last year as a result of a Canadian initiative — wrapped up its work in May with a Canadian-drafted report recommending a number of steps OAS members can take to curb weapons proliferation and strengthen regional security. These recommendations became the basis for a resolution

on "Regional Contributions to Global Security," which was unanimously adopted at the OAS General Assembly held in Nassau, the Bahamas, May 18 to 22. The Assembly also agreed to establish a Special Committee on Hemispheric Security to continue consideration of the Working Group's agenda.

## UN arms register

The Panel of Governmental Technical Experts on the UN Arms Register, which includes a Canadian representative, has met twice since the register's establishment in December. The Panel is refining the categories of weapons to be included, defining the format for reporting, and considering means for expanding the register's scope. The Panel will hold a final meeting in July, at which it will prepare a report for presentation to this fall's General Assembly. Meanwhile, the Conference on Disarmament has added "Transparency in armaments" to its 1992 agenda and has agreed to address the item in a series of informal meetings.

## Middle East arms control

Canada participated in the first meeting of the Middle East Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security, held in Washington May 11 to 14. Canada outlined its conceptual approach to arms control and regional security, and offered to make a more detailed presentation at the next meeting, the date of which is not yet decided.

## MTCR

Portugal and Switzerland recently joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), bringing the number of participants to 20. Members follow a coordinated policy of controlling exports that could contribute to missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Canada is a founding member and has been working to improve the MTCR's effectiveness in curbing nuclear proliferation, including by increasing the regime's scope and membership. The members will hold their next meeting June 29 to July 2 in Oslo, where they will discuss ways to strengthen the regime. ■