

PARLIAMENTARY COMMENT

On the day the Treaty was signed, Liberal member Warren Allmand asked the Government how the CFE Treaty would affect Canadian forces deployed in Europe. Mary Collins, the Associate Minister of National Defence, responded that most of the reductions required would be undertaken by Warsaw Pact members. Very few reductions would be required by NATO and "[a]lthough all the details are not known, we do not expect that it will actually affect our Canadian troops in Europe."⁵

However, Ms. Collins also stated that Canada had already made a decision to reduce its armed forces in Europe by 1,400 as part of reductions relating to cuts in the Canadian defence budget.

On 18 December 1990, Mr. Allmand pursued the question again. He also noted that the end of the Cold War, symbolized by the signing of the CFE Treaty, called into question the need for arrangements such as NORAD (see Chapter 18, NORAD). Mr. Allmand stated, as he had previously, that these developments suggested the great need for a new White Paper on Canadian defence policy.

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, responded:

Canada welcomes the signing of the CFE Treaty. Canada will play an active role in verifying the CFE agreement. A Canadian military verification organization has been established to deal with all aspects of the Treaty. This verification regime could well become the most enduring element of a CFE Treaty and the cornerstone of a new European military security framework.⁶

During hearings before the Standing Committee on National Defence on Canada's role in confidence-building and verification procedures in Europe, the CFE Treaty was occasionally discussed.⁷

⁵*Commons Debates*. 19 November 1990: 15391.

⁶*Commons Debates*. 18 December 1990: 16933.

⁷See: Standing Committee on National Defence. *Minutes of Proceedings*, no. 32-35, 12 and 13 December 1990.