

war and to provide for effective defence; and overall capability to manage successfully crises affecting the security of its members; and the pursuit of political efforts favouring dialogue with other nations and the active search for a cooperative approach to European security, including in the field of arms control and disarmament.

6. To achieve its essential purpose, the Alliance performs the following fundamental security tasks:

- I. To provide one of the indispensable foundations for a stable security environment in Europe, based on the growth of democratic institutions and commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in which no country would be able to intimidate or coerce any European nation or to impose hegemony through the threat or use of force.
 - II. To serve, as provided for in Article IV of the North Atlantic Treaty, as a transatlantic forum for Allied consultations on any issues that affect their vital interests, including possible developments posing risks for members' security, and appropriate coordination of their efforts in fields of common concern.
 - III. To deter and defend against any threat of aggression against the territory of any NATO member state.
 - IV. To preserve the strategic balance within Europe.
7. Other European institutions such as the European Community, WEU and CSCE also have roles to play, in accordance with their respective responsibilities and purposes, in these fields. The creation of a European identity in security and defence will underline the preparedness of the Europeans to take a greater share of responsibility for their security and will help to reinforce transatlantic solidarity. However, the extent of its membership and of its capabilities gives NATO a particular position in that it can perform all four core security functions. NATO is the essential forum for consultation among the Allies and the forum for agreement on policies bearing on the security and defence commitments of its members under the Washington Treaty.
8. In defining the core functions of the Alliance in the terms set out above,

member states confirm that the scope of the Alliance as well as their rights and obligations as provided for in the Washington Treaty remain unchanged. ■

CFE Update

The problem arising from the USSR's interpretation of Article III, the "counting rules" of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), was resolved on June 14 following several months of discussion and negotiation. Final resolution of the problem occurred within the framework of the CFE itself: an Extraordinary Conference pursuant to Article XXI was convened to permit the 22 signatory states to issue legally-binding statements which constitute a separate international agreement. A meeting of the Joint Consultative Group was also held to permit the USSR to issue a statement on military equipment held east of the Ural Mountains, where it is not covered by CFE.

The USSR addressed the concerns of all other signatories on the Article III issue by stating its willingness to assume several obligations. It agreed to place a cap on the holdings of conventional armaments and equipment limited by the treaty (TLE) to be held by its Naval Infantry, Coastal Defence and Strategic Rocket Forces within the CFE area of application. The caps would be at levels existing on November 19, 1990. The USSR also agreed that the only TLE assigned to the Strategic Rocket Forces would be armoured personnel carriers.

Furthermore, the USSR undertook to reduce the number of TLE held by other units within the CFE's area of application so that its total holdings of TLE within the area would conform with all CFE numerical limitations. Most importantly, in order to clarify CFE counting rules for the future, the USSR also agreed that irrespective of assignment or subordination, unless otherwise specified in the Treaty or the statements exchanged on June 14, all TLE based on land within the area of application would be subject to CFE limitations.

The identical statements of the other 21 signatories in response to the USSR's

statement accepted the legally-binding nature of the statements, agreed that these statements would enter into force simultaneously with CFE, and noted that the USSR statement provided a satisfactory basis for proceeding towards ratification and implementation of the CFE. In the ensuing months, Czechoslovakia was the first state to deposit its instrument of ratification. Others are expected to do so in the next few months. It is anticipated, however, that the restructuring of the USSR, and the separation of the Baltic states in particular, may require some additional adjustments in order to implement all CFE obligations. ■

Open Skies Talks Resume

Negotiations on an Open Skies agreement resumed in Vienna on September 9 among the members of NATO and the former Warsaw Treaty Organization. The Open Skies proposal calls for unarmed, short-notice surveillance flights designed to build confidence among participating countries. Previous rounds of Open Skies talks were held in Ottawa in February 1990 and in Budapest in April 1990. In April of this year, Canada presented a new compromise position to the USSR on behalf of the NATO allies.

In announcing the resumption of negotiations jointly with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Mr. Gesa Jeszensky, SSEA Barbara McDougall observed that "an Open Skies regime is an important component of a new security order. We are delighted to work so closely with Hungary in these talks."

Mr. Jeszensky said, "We hope that the experience gained from both the Canada-Hungary trial flight [of January 1990], as well as the bilateral Open Skies regime that Hungary established with Romania, will contribute to the successful conclusion of these negotiations."

Talks on Open Skies will continue throughout the fall. Initial indications are that all sides are considering compromises and that an agreement can be reached within the next six months. ■