

### **Clark Welcomes Soviet SNF Proposals**

On May 11, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, welcomed the announcements made in Moscow by Soviet President Gorbachev with respect to unilateral cuts in Soviet short-range nuclear forces (SNF) and further precision concerning proposals for cuts in conventional arms which are currently being negotiated in Vienna.

Mr. Clark noted that the cuts in Soviet theatre and short-range nuclear arms (284 SNF missiles, 166 bombs, and 50 artillery) still leave the Soviet Union with a massive advantage in these weapons. The Soviets have approximately 3,000 SNF missiles on 1,766 SNF missile launchers, at least 5,500 nuclear-capable artillery systems and over 5,000 aircraft capable of delivering theatre nuclear weapons. NATO has only 88 SNF missile launchers and less than 1,000 SNF missiles, less than 3,000 nuclear artillery

and less than 2,600 aircraft capable of delivering theatre nuclear weapons.

Mr. Clark noted that Canada supports the commencement of negotiations on reductions, but not total elimination of SNF missiles and is also prepared to support modernization of NATO's SNF forces. The first step in any such negotiation should be to bring the continuing Soviet asymmetry down to NATO levels.

Mr. Clark indicated that he would want to give the Soviet proposals on conventional cuts further study before commenting in detail. He looks forward to seeing the additional details Mr. Gorbachev has promised to put forward in Vienna. He welcomed the Soviet willingness to reduce their tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery systems down to NATO levels, which responds to the proposals put forward by the West at Vienna. □

From the beginning of the Vienna Meeting, Canada raised the fundamental issue of compliance with CSCE commitments. Candidly, but factually and fairly, we called attention to shortcomings, because we were convinced that unless there were better compliance, or a demonstrated willingness to improve it, further promises were unlikely to be meaningful. Far from building a climate of confidence, they would have eroded it.

We firmly believed that this Conference should produce real progress on the whole range of issues covered by the Helsinki Final Act. Canada played an active role in all three Baskets in sponsoring and supporting measures that addressed the most serious issues. We pursued these goals patiently, constructively, and at times stubbornly. We were convinced that we would deserve to be judged harshly by future generations if we failed to make the most of the Vienna Meeting. That was a common purpose of the Canadian Government and of the non-governmental organizations, here and at home, with whom we were able to work so constructively.

### **Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe**

*The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was a series of conferences and agreements which followed from the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and had as its objectives the enhancement of security and confidence, the breaking down of barriers between East and West, and the facilitation of the freer flow of people, information and ideas. The Vienna Follow-Up Meeting closed on January 19, 1989. The following is the text of a speech by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at the conclusion of the meeting.*

"We are gathered here this week to conclude more than two years of successful negotiations on the whole range of interrelated subjects essential to security and cooperation in Europe.

When this Conference began, I said in my opening statement that our task would not be easy, and it has not been.

The problems have at times seemed intractable; the language often bitter; the negotiations tense and at times frustrating. There has been the temptation to gloss over difficult issues, to hide real differences. But only by speaking frankly, by facing our differences directly, could we achieve the real changes our people have a right to expect.

Our world has changed since we began this negotiation, and generally changed for the better. For the first time in history, there is an agreement to abolish a whole class of nuclear weapons. The two superpowers have a better attitude toward one another and toward multilateral institutions like the United Nations. Some regional conflicts have been resolved or are on their way to resolution in the Middle East, in Africa and Asia. Soviet forces are withdrawing from Afghanistan, and Mr. Gorbachev has offered unilateral force reductions in Eastern Europe. Our political environment has become more positive, more hopeful.

Incrementally, and by hard bargaining, the Vienna Concluding Document took shape. Subjects whose introduction into a CSCE forum would earlier have been denounced as 'confrontational' or 'interference in internal affairs' were considered openly and debated freely. We could begin to see that the opportunity open to us was even greater than we had thought, if we had the will and the patience to exploit it to its fullest extent.

Our efforts have now been rewarded with success. The Vienna Concluding Document is a welcome milestone in East-West relations and in the evolution of Europe. It reflects and builds on recent changes. It makes significant strides in all the areas covered by the Helsinki Final Act. Canada is proud to have played a role in formulating some of its key elements.

When the Vienna Meeting opened, we had just succeeded in the Stockholm Conference in establishing a set of confidence- and security-building measures that carried considerable political and military significance. But what we