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# The Disarmament Bulletin

A review of Canada's arms control and disarmament activities

Final Notice - June 1992

## Skies Are Open

Two years after Canada hosted the opening round in Ottawa, Open Skies negotiations concluded with signature of a treaty on March 24 during a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) meeting in Helsinki. The Treaty allows each signing country to overfly the territory of the others at short notice using unarmed surveillance aircraft. The aim is to reduce suspicions and build confidence by increasing openness in military activities. In addition, the Treaty should help to solve problems arising from the implementation of other arms control agreements, such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The Open Skies Treaty is the first confidence-building agreement to include the territory of North America and the Asian part of Russia as well as Europe. Its 25 signatories include the members of NATO, the former members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, and Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Georgia. Other Soviet successor states can automatically accede to the Treaty. Other CSCE members can apply for accession, subject to the approval of existing States Parties.

The Treaty requires each signatory to accept a specified number of overflights and entitles each signatory to carry out a specified number. A signatory must open *all* of its territory to overflight. Countries being overflown may insist on the use of their own aircraft, equipped with an authorized package of sensors representing commercially-available technologies. The sensors allowed under the Treaty are capable of acquiring images of military equipment 24 hours a day, in all weather.

An Open Skies Consultative Commission, based in Vienna, will coordinate Treaty implementation. Canada is chairing the Commission's first session, which is considering several questions remaining from the Open Skies negotiations, including the allocation of costs for overflights when the host country provides the aircraft, quotas for new entrants, and sensor calibration.

Canada helped get the Open Skies negotiations off the ground in 1989 and the Canadian delegation has played a leading role in the talks since then. In recognition of this, Canada will be a depositary of the Treaty, as will Hungary. This means they will hold the legal texts of the Treaty and will receive the instruments of ratification and accession from the other participating countries. ■

## PM Calls for Stepped-Up Non-Proliferation Efforts

In a speech at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland on May 21, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney called for stronger international action to deal with the threat of nuclear proliferation. The PM advocated:

- indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty when it comes up for review in 1995, and universal adherence to the Treaty;
- increased funds for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and use of IAEA "anytime, anywhere" challenge inspections to deter and catch nuclear cheaters, with recourse to the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance;
- tightened controls on the export of nuclear weapon material and technology, including a strengthened Missile Technology Control Regime;
- measures to end the sale of nuclear brainpower to pariah states;
- strengthened regional security cooperation, particularly in South Asia, the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East;
- deeper cuts in existing nuclear arsenals, to the lowest level consistent with nuclear deterrence; and
- a global moratorium on nuclear weapon testing.

He announced that Canada would be prepared to join in an international program to assist the countries of the former USSR in the destruction of nuclear weapons. To discourage proliferation, Canada is also pledging \$3.5 million to the establishment of International Science and Technology Centres in Russia and Ukraine, which will provide non-military employment for former Soviet nuclear weapon specialists. ■

## Last Disarmament Bulletin

We regret to inform you that, due to resource constraints, *The Disarmament Bulletin* has ceased publication. Copies of back issues are available free-of-charge from the Arms Control and Disarmament Division, External Affairs and International Trade Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G2. Questions about Canadian arms control and disarmament activities should be directed to the same address.

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