

March 19 to April 11, 1990, brought together for the first time officials and business people to consider measures to further trade and industrial cooperation, and to take the first steps toward integration of the countries of Eastern Europe into the global economic system.

The ongoing Conference on the Human Dimension has been an important factor in securing progress in human rights. Its next meeting in Copenhagen will aim to broaden the European consensus on the right to free elections, the rule of law, representative institutions, minority rights, religious freedoms and many other fundamental human rights.

Other CSCE meetings have dealt with, or will address, information, culture and the Mediterranean before the next Main Follow-up Meeting in Helsinki in March 1992.

This is a busy schedule. Yet such has been the pace of events that there is now a general desire among participating states for a special CSCE summit this November to mark the signing of a CFE agreement, assess the impact of rapid changes, consolidate achievements to date and plot a course for the new Europe.

The Right Honourable Joe Clark has expressed Canada's strong support for a CSCE summit. "A leading role for this institution in the design and implementation of a new order in Europe is vital," he said. "For Canada, the CSCE is the most important forum for discussions relating to building a new peace and prosperity in Europe."

The place, date and agenda of the summit will be the subject of intense consultation among the 35 participating states in coming weeks. Canada wishes a summit to begin the process of institutionalizing the CSCE. We envisage a mix of regular activities in all main subject areas, high-level political consultations and enhancement of existing institutions, to draw Europe together and to broaden cooperation among all

participating states. Full and constructive participation by Canada and the United States in this process is essential.

Since 1973 Canada has worked in the CSCE to build security and confidence and to promote the freer movement of people, information and ideas. We now begin the task of creating a new European architecture that will be sound, permanent and secure. ■

CFE Update

Recognizing that the Ottawa Open Skies Conference would provide an opportunity for foreign ministers to exchange views on broader issues of European security, Western CFE negotiators concentrated their efforts in the run-up to the Conference on identifying issues that required resolution at the political level. This process led to a series of Western initiatives in Vienna in early February, including revised proposals on US and Soviet stationed forces, on tanks and armoured combat vehicles, and on combat aircraft and helicopters.

This preparatory work proved useful, as ministers in Ottawa were able to agree on a proposal that would limit US and Soviet forces stationed in the European central zone to 195,000 each. The agreement would also permit the United States to station a further 30,000 troops in Europe outside the central zone.

In addition, the Open Skies Conference launched the "two-plus-four" mechanism for dealing with the process of German unification. This means that CFE negotiators now face the difficult challenge of structuring a treaty capable of taking into account significant changes in Central Europe and a possible realignment of countries within existing alliances.

Partly because negotiators are wrestling with this challenge and partly be-

cause of developments within the Soviet Union, the pace of CFE Round Six, which opened on March 16, has not matched that of previous rounds. Negotiators are confident, however, that the high-level meetings scheduled for this spring and early summer, including the Budapest Open Skies meeting and the Gorbachev-Bush summit in June, will help to ensure that the target of an agreement this year is met.

CFE Organization and Canada's Role

The following paragraphs explain the mechanics of how Canada and its allies develop comprehensive proposals and participate in the CFE negotiation.

Using the objectives outlined in the CFE mandate and taking instructions from their respective capitals, NATO representatives meet twice monthly at the High Level Task Force (HLTF) in Brussels to develop positions that will be tabled in Vienna. The HLTF was established in 1986 to develop initiatives in the area of conventional arms control. Canada is represented at HLTF meetings by a senior EAITC representative.

Reflecting the complexity of the negotiation, the HLTF has established a number of specialized sub-bodies, called teams, to help in the development of proposals. These sub-bodies deal with Verification (Green Team), NATO and WTO Data (Red Team/Blue Team), CSBMs (White Team) and Treaty-Drafting (HLTF Deputies). Canada participates in meetings of each sub-body and is especially active in Green Team work. When the HLTF reaches agreement on a Western position, the position is transmitted to Vienna where it is tabled by Western negotiators.

The CFE negotiation itself is structured to allow East and West to negotiate simultaneously on different aspects of the treaty. Tabling of new proposals usually occurs in the weekly plenary sessions with initial views being