

and aggression. We welcome the cooperation between NATO and the Western European Union in maintaining sanctions enforcement in the Adriatic.

25. We denounce the violations by the parties of the agreements they have already signed to implement a ceasefire and to permit the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance to the victims of this terrible conflict. This situation cannot be tolerated. We urge all the parties to respect their agreements. We are determined to eliminate obstacles

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### ***NATO reaffirms its readiness, under UN Security Council authority, to carry out air strikes to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo and other threatened areas.***

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to the accomplishment of the UNPROFOR mandate. We will continue operations to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia. We call for the full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions regarding the reinforcement of UNPROFOR. We reaffirm our readiness, under the authority of the United Nations Security Council and in accordance with the Alliance decisions of 2 and 9 August 1993, to carry out air strikes in order to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo, the safe areas and other threatened areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this context, we urge the UNPROFOR authorities to draw up urgently plans to ensure that the blocked rotation of the UNPROFOR contingent in Srebrenica can take place and to examine how the airport at Tuzla can be opened for humanitarian relief purposes.

26. The past five years have brought historic opportunities as well as new uncertainties and instabilities to Europe. Our Alliance has moved to adapt itself to the new circumstances, and today we have taken decisions in key areas. We have given our full support to the development of a European Security and Defence Identity. We have endorsed the concept of Combined Joint Task Forces as a means to adapt the Alliance to its future tasks. We have opened a new perspective of progressively closer relationships with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the former Soviet Union. In doing all this, we have renewed our Alliance as a joint endeavour of a North America and Europe permanently committed to their common and indivisible security. The challenges we face are many and serious. The decisions we have taken today will better enable us to meet them.

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### ***Canada Welcomes Ukrainian Ratification of START I***

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Canada welcomed the unconditional ratification by the Ukrainian parliament of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol, which commits Ukraine to rid itself of nuclear weapons and accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state.

"The government and parliament of Ukraine have acted courageously," said Foreign Minister André Ouellet of the February 3 decision. "They have recognized that denuclearization is the best way to ensure Ukraine's stability and promote security in the region."

The ratification follows a trilateral agreement announced January 14 by US President Bill Clinton, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, under which Ukraine will return all nuclear weapons from its territory to Russia for dismantling over the next seven years. Ukraine had been procrastinating on the fulfilment of its Lisbon Protocol obligations due to mistrust of Russia and a lack of resources to pay for the dismantling and removal process.

Mr. Ouellet noted that he will discuss Lisbon Protocol implementation and the prospects for increased Canada-Ukraine cooperation when he visits Ukraine in the near future. Canada has an extensive program of technical assistance in Ukraine and early NPT accession will open the door to full cooperation in the nuclear field, especially in the area of safety.

## ***CSCE Missions Update***

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has made conflict prevention and crisis management a central focus of its role in European cooperative security. To this end, over the past 18 months it has deployed a variety of missions to areas of potential or current conflict. These missions have had widely differing mandates, budgets and sizes. Their relationships with host authorities, other parties to conflicts and international organizations have also differed greatly.

The following long-term CSCE missions are currently in the field:

### ***Skopje (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)***

The "Spillover Monitor Mission" is to monitor developments along the Macedonia-Serbia border and in other parts of Macedonia susceptible to spillover of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The aim is to promote respect for territorial integrity and the maintenance of peace, and to help prevent possible conflict in the region. This requires very close coordination with the UNPROFOR-Macedonia Command. The eight-member CSCE mission reports that there are no immediate symptoms of spillover but the deteriorating economic situation is of serious concern. Canada has participated in this mission.

### ***Georgia***

The objective of this mission is to promote negotiations between the parties to the conflict in Georgia. Although its mandate covers both the South Ossetian and Abkhazian conflicts, the CSCE mission focuses on South Ossetia, while the UN takes the lead in Abkhazia. The CSCE mission, with eight members, has been instructed to develop a proposal for cooperation with the joint (Georgian, Russian, South Ossetian) peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia, which could see the CSCE playing a more concerted role in overseeing peacekeeping in the former USSR.

### ***Moldova***

The objective of this eight-member mission is to facilitate the achievement of a political settlement to the conflict in the