



With respect to constraints (i.e., measures that actually constrain or limit military activities through geographical restrictions or ceilings on the manpower and/or equipment committed to such activities), both the NNA and the WPO have proposed measures that would put a cap on the size of military exercises. NATO has resisted the notion of constraints primarily because the prevailing asymmetries of the European military situation would tend to render any constraint measure more disadvantageous to it. While NATO is not a *demandeur* on constraints, it can accept constraints in principle and is ready to consider any constraint proposal which equitably affects all participating States.

With respect to the non-use of force principle, NATO believes that this obligation is already clear and concrete in international law and that the question should not be one of improving its formulation but rather its observance. The WPO remains convinced that the politico-military situation in Europe has deteriorated to the point where an NUF agreement is essential. Such an agreement in the words of one WPO delegate "would be a welcome signal about the underlying political intentions of the participating States and would help to establish clear and elaborate standards for the international conduct of States." The NNA, in its proposal of November 15, tabled an NUF text that may represent a compromise formulation containing, as it does, references to collateral issues (such as human rights and peaceful settlement of disputes) that in the NATO view are vital complements to the obligation not to threaten or use force. In the context of a meaningful set of CSBMs, NATO will likely agree to a reaffirmation of the NUF principle along the lines of the NNA text, although agreement on the exact formulation may elude negotiators until the end of the Conference.

Canada has long been an exponent of confidence-building as a means of reducing tensions in East-West relations and facilitating the negotiation of arms control agreements. One of the Government's six priority objectives in the field of arms control and disarmament



The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, addressing press conference following meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in Brussels on December 12, 1985. Canada has advocated within NATO that a high priority be attached to a successful outcome of the Stockholm Conference. Mr. Clark spoke to this effect at the Brussels meeting.

is "the building of confidence sufficient to facilitate the reduction of military forces in Europe and elsewhere." Canada was closely involved in the formulation of the mandate for the Stockholm Conference and the subsequent development of the package of CSBMs put forward by NATO at Stockholm.

Canada is playing a prominent role among its Allies on the questions of NUF and verification and we are members of the sub-groups within the NATO caucus that have the primary responsibility for negotiating these issues in the relevant Conference's working groups. The Canadian Delegation has been both active and innovative in its efforts to bring this first stage of the Conference to a successful conclusion. Canada believes that agreement at Stockholm on a substantial set of CSBMs will be of as much political as military significance, and would make a major contribution to the further development of the Helsinki process to promote cooperation and security in Europe.

Additional Reading

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Spencer, Robert (ed.), *Canada and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1985