

reductions of SNF once cuts in CFE began. Actual reductions of short-range forces, however, would begin only after an accord had been fully implemented. As for Lance modernization, the Allies reasserted that nuclear forces should be "kept up to date," and added that the issue of a follow-on to Lance would be dealt with in 1992, in light of "overall security developments."³

On 6 July 1989, Mikhail Gorbachev announced that Soviet short-range missiles would be reduced "without delay" if NATO agreed to negotiations on such systems. While the Soviet proposal seemed designed to force a reconsideration of the position adopted at the NATO Summit (i.e., that SNF negotiation could proceed only after a CFE accord), the Allied position remained unchanged.

NATO Decision-making

The North Atlantic Council is the highest authority in the Alliance. Composed of representatives of the sixteen member countries, it meets at the level of Ministers or of Permanent Representatives (Ambassadors). Ministerial meetings, attended by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Finance, and so on, are held twice a year or more, while the Council in permanent session meets once a week or as often as required. Special meetings of Heads of Government are also held at particularly important junctures in Alliance affairs.

Under the Council, there is a range of committees and commands, such as the Political Committee, the Defence Planning Committee, the Military Committee, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Atlantic. The Secretary-General of NATO is the civilian head of the organization, chairing the Council and such other key bodies as the Nuclear Planning Group.

Canada's Commitment

At present, Canada's military commitments to NATO consist of:

- a mechanized brigade group of about 4200 men, stationed in Lahr, West Germany;
- three squadrons of tactical fighter aircraft plus related maintenance and headquarters elements with one Canadian Air Division at Lahr and Baden-Soellingen, West Germany;
- other headquarters and support elements in Lahr;
- the Canadian Air/Sea Transportable (CAST) Brigade Group, based in Canada and committed to reinforcing northern Norway when required in time of crisis;
- two Rapid Reinforcement fighter squadrons, previously committed to Norway and now slotted for the central front;
- a battalion group committed to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) (AMF(L)), and a fighter squadron committed to the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Air) (AMF(A)), for deployment to NATO's Northern Region. (Both the battalion group and the fighter squadron are stationed in Canada. The latter is one of the two squadrons also committed to the central front);

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 23, 27.