

## Hemispheric CBMs Earth-to-Space Tracking Workshop

The OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security held its first ever meeting of governmental experts to discuss confidence-building measures (CBMs) from November 17 to 19 in Washington. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: it permitted an exchange of views among governments on national perspectives towards CBMs, and it established the agenda for a subsequent workshop of experts, to be held in Buenos Aires in mid-March.

The Canadian delegation, led by Mr. Mark Moher, Director General of the International Security, Arms Control and CSCE Affairs Bureau of DFAIT, presented a paper on Canada's conceptual approach to CBMs. The presentation stressed the broad, interdisciplinary nature of CBMs and emphasized that confidence-building in any region must take account of the social, economic and political aspects of security. A second Canadian presentation was made by LCol Bernard Couture of the Directorate of Nuclear and Arms Control Policy at DND. Colonel Couture emphasized the Canadian approach to CBMs from a practical standpoint, discussing, among other things, the close cooperation between the Canadian Forces and the civilian authorities in the negotiation and implementation of CBMs.

Other national presentations provided overviews of the security situation throughout the hemisphere. It became clear that many regional states do not have security concerns bearing great resemblance to those of other regions. While traditional military CBMs may have some utility in dealing with specific concerns, the larger approach to regional security will have to focus on broader matters.

The March meeting will include:

- a more detailed discussion of the CBMs currently in force in the region;
- consideration of CBMs in force in other regions and their possible applicability to the Western hemisphere;
- examination of the political environment for successful confidence-building in the OAS region;
- examination of the extent of cooperation between the OAS and the UN on regional security matters, and the latest UN developments regarding CBMs.

Canada is consulting with the Chair of the Committee to determine where we can make the most useful contribution. ■

In September, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) held a unique workshop on Earth-to-space tracking at the Algonquin Space Complex in Algonquin Park, Ontario. The workshop, which ran from September 12 to 18, was hosted by the Toronto-based Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science (ISTS) as part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Verification Research Program.

Three UNIDIR representatives, eight scientific and political experts from Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Russia and the United Nations, and six Canadian observers participated. While at the Space Complex, the group examined the political, technical and economic aspects of Earth-to-space tracking as part of efforts to control weapons in outer space. They also visited the facilities of Telesat Canada in Ottawa, where they continued their discussions with Telesat experts.

The workshop focused on current and future developments relating to arms control in outer space. Comparing diplomatic and scientific approaches, participants looked at confidence-building measures (CBMs) potentially applicable to space activities. These could involve formal or informal international measures, the aim of which is to establish confidence among states concerning the peaceful nature of their activities in or related to outer space and to assist in preventing the weaponization of outer space. Proposed CBMs and verification measures examined by the group include:

- international exchanges of information on planned and operational activities in outer space;
- the need for information exchange on rocket launches of all kinds;
- the need for international notification of such activities as launches, spacecraft functions, orbital parameters, planned manoeuvres, spacecraft lifetimes and disposal plans, and potential atmospheric re-entry; and
- specifics of Earth-to-space tracking, including the detection, recognition, description and identification of objects and manoeuvres in space.

Delegates also explored the increasingly critical problem of space debris. Between 7,000 and 9,000 objects currently orbit the Earth at a variety of altitudes and in varying sizes, ranging from paint chips one centimetre across to non-operational satellites in parking orbits. The proliferation of space debris may progress to such an extent that it eliminates space exploration. Some mathematical models have developed scenarios in which the increasing accumulation of debris in Earth orbit would destroy any spacecraft within a short period of its launch.

The workshop represented the initial meeting of an international study team set up by UNIDIR and is a natural extension of UNIDIR's earlier research on verification and on arms control in outer space. Dr. Wayne Cannon, head of the ISTS Space Geodynamics Laboratory, is one of the scientific experts on the team. UNIDIR plans a second workshop for the spring of 1994 in Europe, with the publication of the project's findings tentatively scheduled for the third quarter of 1994. ■

### Focus: On the CSCE

With the end of the Cold War, a number of states, including Canada, have placed increased emphasis on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) as a vehicle for helping to maintain security and stability in Europe. It is widely acknowledged that CSCE meetings during the Cold War helped contribute to a lessening of East-West conflict by providing channels of communication. It is now hoped that the CSCE can serve as a tool for crisis management and prevention.

### Origins of the CSCE

The idea of a conference of European states to discuss security on the continent was first advanced at a Warsaw Pact meeting in Budapest in 1955. At the time, Western countries responded negatively, suspecting that the project's ultimate aim was to reduce the influence of the United States in Europe. The Warsaw Pact raised the notion again in 1966, and in 1969 Finland responded by exploring reactions towards the idea in the capitals of 30 Euro-