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## **Open Skies: A Chronology**

**July 21, 1955** – President Eisenhower proposes Open Skies at four-power (France, UK, USA, USSR) summit in Geneva. Canada supports the proposal and takes an active role in ensuing negotiations.

**January 1989** – President Bush asks the National Security Council (NSC) to undertake a review of potential arms control and confidence-building initiatives available to him.

**April** – Canadian officials learn that a renewal of Open Skies is under consideration by the NSC as a potential initiative.

**May 2** – Prime Minister Mulroney writes to President Bush, emphasizing that Canada believes Open Skies could be an excellent initiative.

**May 4** – Meeting in Washington, the Prime Minister discusses Open Skies with President Bush, urging him to forward the proposal and to enlarge it to include the nations of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO). The President indicates that he is interested in Open Skies and will be giving it further consideration.

**May 11** – The President phones the Prime Minister and tells him that he intends to proceed with the initiative.

**May 12** – In an address at Texas A&M University, President Bush proposes that an Open Skies regime be created, encompassing all the states of NATO and the WTO, as a confidence-building measure. Canada welcomes the initiative and pledges its full support in the development of an Open Skies regime.

**May 30** – NATO leaders endorse Open Skies in a communiqué.

**September 21** – Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze tells US Secretary of State Baker that the USSR is willing to participate in an Open Skies conference.

**September 24** – Canada offers to host a conference to negotiate an Open Skies agreement.

**December 15** – NATO issues its Basic Elements Paper on Open Skies.

**January 6, 1990** – Canada conducts a trial Open Skies overflight of Hungary.

**January 30 - February 1** – NATO and WTO representatives meet in Budapest to discuss Conference organization and procedure and to evaluate the trial overflight.

**February 12-14** – Ministerial portion of Open Skies Conference, Ottawa.

**February 15-28** – Official portion of Open Skies Conference, Ottawa.

**April 23 - May 11** – Second Open Skies Conference, Budapest (proposed).