

Open skies would let all members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact participate fully in arms control verification and monitoring.

Satellites are inadequate to the verification tasks ahead

The rapid pace of negotiations for the conventional arms control agreement proposed by Mr. Bush and endorsed at the NATO summit meeting adds to the importance of open skies. Since open skies is a straightforward concept, it can be easily and readily available to assist in verification as soon as an agreement is reached.

Only large countries have satellites in the skies. Yet, if we are to have conventional arms control in Europe, it is essential that all parties to the agreement have the ability to assure their publics, on the basis of their own judgments, that these agreements are being adhered to, and that their security is intact.

It is not politically acceptable to rely solely on the good will and judgment of another nation. The US would not do this, and open skies demonstrates that it does not expect its allies to do so.

Open skies would bring glasnost to the public discussion of arms control compliance. The debate over the Krasnoyarsk radar in the Soviet Union went on for years before anyone was able to publish photographs of the installation. For national security reasons, nations don't publish satellite photos.

That rule need not apply to the results of serial surveillance — especially not to photographs taken by low-flying aircraft. The availability of this kind of evidence cannot but enhance the public discussion of the Warsaw Pact's military activity and of arms control compliance.

Monitoring would become more reliable. It would no longer be subject to the vagaries of satellite failure. Under the current system, it can be years before a capability is replaced if a satellite fails before schedule.

The verification of a conventional arms control agreement, especially if defenses are to be greatly reduced, will require

continuous monitoring to prevent a rapid military build-up and to maintain confidence that a surprise attack is not being planned. If we remain subject to significant periods during which our monitoring capability is impaired, our confidence in these agreements will diminish.

By his actions, Mikhail Gorbachev has

demonstrated his commitment to improve East-West relations. He has offered to do more and has put forward a wide array of proposals that will further change the relationship. President Bush has wisely asked him to create the conditions that will enable us to move ahead together without risking the security of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. □

PM Welcomes Bush Initiative

The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, recently welcomed the initiative of President George Bush in proposing an agreement on "Open Skies." He also indicated that Canada would be willing to join in an "Open Skies" arrangement that would allow for short notice overflights of Canadian territory by unarmed aircraft. Traditionally, he stated, this concept has symbolized the West's commitment to transparency. It serves as a clear reminder of our interest in both arms control and peaceful cooperation with the East.

The Prime Minister noted, that an "Open Skies" agreement could lead to an important increase in confidence between East and West. It could provide major benefits in the verification of arms control agreements, he said, especially for states which do not possess satellite monitoring capabilities. As well, an "Open Skies" agreement would provide benefits to the superpowers, in that overflights by aircraft would be less predictable than those by satellites.

Aware of USA interest in re-examining "Open Skies," the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, raised this subject with President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker during their recent visit to Washington. At that time, the Prime Minister offered his support, urging the President to put this initiative forward. He stressed to the President that it would be particularly useful if this initiative could include all of the nations, members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Prime Minister Mulroney urged the NATO Allies to join the initiative. In addition, Canada will actively encourage a positive response to this idea on the

part of the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact Allies. □



The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister.

Officials Visit Eastern Bloc

Officials from the Departments of External Affairs and National Defence, headed by Mr. John Noble, Director General, International Security and Arms Control Bureau, travelled to Prague, Czechoslovakia on June 6 and Warsaw, Poland on June 8, 1989 for the purpose of reviewing recent developments in the field of arms control and disarmament.

Such visits, on a reciprocal basis, constitute a routine element in the dialogue in which Canada engages on current arms control and disarmament issues with several Eastern European countries. Canadian officials also hold regularly scheduled consultations in this area with their Soviet and USA counterparts, NATO Allies and with members of the non-aligned nations. □