



communiqué

N°:
No.: 147

July 28, 1987.

WESTERN NATIONS TABLE DRAFT MANDATE FOR NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON CONVENTIONAL STABILITY IN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that the 16 NATO participants in informal consultations at Vienna with members of the Warsaw Pact today circulated a detailed proposal for a mandate or terms of reference for a new negotiation on conventional stability in Europe.

The Western nations proposed that the objectives of the negotiation be to strengthen stability and security in Europe through:

- the establishment of a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels,
- the elimination of disparities prejudicial to stability and security,
- the elimination, as a matter of high priority, of the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action.

Mr. Clark expressed the hope that the draft mandate circulated today would lead to early commencement of negotiations aimed at establishing in Europe a stable and secure balance of conventional forces at lower levels. The negotiations should seek as a matter of priority to eliminate the capability for launching surprise attack and for initiating large scale offensive action.

Mr. Clark noted that Canada, as a member of NATO and through its participation in the High Level Task Force, had taken an active role in the development of this mandate and will be fully involved in these important negotiations which could have a major effect on lowering tensions between East and West and, if successful, could pave the way for further progress in nuclear arms negotiations.