



NATO and WTO foreign ministers listening to chairperson Joe Clark (centre) at the Open Skies Conference.

5. Should there be restrictions other than for air safety?

The NATO countries say no. The Soviet Union has suggested that certain areas of its territory be off-limits to Open Skies overflights.

Canada Pleased with Results

Despite these unresolved issues, the Canadian delegation was pleased with the results of the Ottawa Conference. In clarifying where the parties stand, in identifying the key elements of contention, and in drawing up a bracketed treaty text — a process that usually takes months or even years — the delegates made tangible progress toward the creation of an Open Skies regime. Mr. Noble noted that none of the negotiators expected to leave Ottawa with agreement on all of the major issues. According to him, "the real negotiations start now, on the road to Budapest, and at the Budapest Conference itself, but I remain confident the end result will be a successful treaty of the type that Canada has been proposing since last May."

Noble stated that one of the fascinating things about the Conference was the

extent to which the six other members of the WTO disassociated themselves from many of the positions taken by the Soviet Union in a way that has not been evident during previous arms control negotiations. "It was not a bloc-to-bloc negotiation," he said. "It has been a negotiation among 23 countries."

Noble also emphasized that the basic issues remaining to be resolved are not technical, but political. What is required for success at Budapest is a "new injection of political will," of the sort clearly expressed by all 23 foreign ministers during the opening phase of the Ottawa Conference.

There will be close diplomatic consultations among the parties involved right up to the Budapest Conference, with Canada and Hungary being asked by the other delegations to monitor whether it would be useful to have an inter-sessional meeting. The Budapest Conference will open at the level of officials. If an agreement is reached, the NATO and WTO foreign ministers will assemble in Budapest on May 11 and 12 to sign it.

Open Skies is designed to build confidence between East and West by al-

lowing all members of the two alliances to see that no state is carrying out activities that threaten the security of the others. It will allow countries that do not have surveillance satellites — such as Canada — to monitor for themselves areas of particular interest or concern. Open Skies will also set the climate for further progress in arms control talks. With major agreements on both conventional and nuclear arms expected in the near future, far-reaching confidence-building measures such as Open Skies, which can also help fulfill verification requirements, will play a key role in future security arrangements. ■

Acronyms Used in this Issue

- ACD — arms control and disarmament
- CD — Conference on Disarmament
- CFE — Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
- CSBM — Confidence- and Security-Building Measure
- CSCE — Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe
- CTBT — Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- EAITC — External Affairs and International Trade Canada
- FOFA — follow-on forces attack
- HLTF — High Level Task Force
- IAEA — International Atomic Energy Agency
- ICBM — intercontinental ballistic missile
- INF — Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces
- NATO — North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- NNA — neutral and non-aligned
- PTBT — Partial Test Ban Treaty
- SALT — Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty
- SLBM — sea-launched ballistic missile
- UNDC — United Nations Disarmament Commission
- UNGA — United Nations General Assembly
- WTO — Warsaw Treaty Organization ■