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AGREEMENT BY CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATION
ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced Canada's agreement to participate in the new Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. The mandate for this negotiation provides for talks among the 23 states that are members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact; the talks will be aimed at strengthening security in Europe through the establishment of a stable balance of conventional armed forces at lower levels. Canada was an active participant in the discussions leading to the agreement on this mandate.

Considerable progress has been made in recent years in improving East/West relations, Mr. Clark noted. He expressed the expectation that the new negotiations on conventional forces will focus on those weapons systems which are capable of mounting large-scale offensive operations and of seizing and holding territory, effectively eliminating once and for all the danger of surprise attack in Europe. Europe is today a heavily militarized region, with over five million men and women of the armed forces of two opposing military alliances facing each other.

Mr. Clark noted that the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is expected to begin in Vienna in March of this year, within the context of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). He emphasized the importance Canada attaches to the negotiation as providing a unique opportunity for furthering the cause of European security. He confirmed that every effort will be made by Canada's delegation to the negotiation to ensure its success.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada