

PRESS CONFERENCE

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (CHAIRMAN):

Colleagues, let me begin very briefly by thanking you all for your co-operation during the last two days of meetings here on Open Skies. I think we have made important progress and I know that we look forward to accepting the invitation of the Government of Hungary to continue this process, with the hope that we can come to an agreement on the basis of our discussions begun here today on a Treaty on Open Skies in Budapest in May.

As your Chairman, I want to thank you for your co-operation and express the hope and the expectation that the very good spirit of co-operation we have seen here will continue.

As was well known, it was important for us to have the discussion that launched this Open Skies process, but this meeting also provided us with an unparalleled opportunity for Minister of the 23 nations to meet bilaterally and informally for discussions that were very productive.

Those of us from the NATO Alliance have just come from a discussion of some matters that had been on our agenda and I apologize for the delay to some of our colleagues. I want to make it clear that those discussions were not about matters discussed earlier today between Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Baker.

I am very gratified to announce today that the Foreign Ministers assembled in Ottawa have come to an agreement on the CFE manpower ceilings in Europe. The United States and the Soviet Union shall each station no more than 195,000 ground and air personnel on foreign territory in Europe in the Central Zone. This would also constitute the total ceiling on Soviet troops stationed on foreign territory in Europe.

In addition, the United States agrees that it will station no more than 30,000 troops on foreign territory in Europe outside of the Central Zone. The Central Zone referred to above is the zone proposed by the United States President in the specific context of his manpower initiative of January 31, 1990.

The agreement on manpower overcomes one of the most important obstacles to a CFE treaty and provides additional impetus to reach an agreement this year. It is news very much welcomed by all of us.

I thank you for your participation in the work of this