

The Disarmament Bulletin

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A review of Canada's arms control and disarmament activities

Dept. of External Affairs
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CFE Reaches 25% Target

At midnight on November 16, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) passed a significant milestone: the end of the first reduction phase. By then, over 17,000 pieces of Treaty-limited equipment (TLE) had been destroyed or converted for non-military purposes under strict procedures and stringent verification measures. Although a number of issues remain unresolved, in practice CFE is serving as the foundation for a secure and stable balance of conventional armed forces in Europe.

Signed on November 19, 1990, CFE provisions did not enter into force in their entirety until July 17, 1992. Briefly, CFE limits the NATO alliance and states that belonged to the now-defunct Warsaw Pact (or their successors) to equal holdings of TLE and requires extensive exchanges of information to record where this TLE is located and to whom it belongs. CFE also requires the destruction of TLE holdings that exceed national entitlements (collectively called the reduction liability), although limited quantities of some equipment types can be converted to non-military uses. Extensive on-site inspection provisions permit signatories to monitor whether other parties are fulfilling their obligations. Canada has conducted 10 on-site inspections to verify the (to page 2)



Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet with UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in New York on November 10. During his first official visit outside Canada, Mr. Ouellet met with Mr. Boutros-Ghali, Special UN Representative for Haiti Dante Caputo, and the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Plus ça change? A Look at European Security

The fall of the Berlin Wall and all that it symbolized has not resulted in the hoped-for era of peace and stability in Europe. Ex-Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union are dotted with instability and war. Other parts of the continent face turmoil and uncertainty. Yet it is not entirely a case of unchanging change. CFE implementation is proceeding apace, promoting security cooperation among the parties and placing limits on future levels of major weapon systems in Europe. The CSCE has developed a small institutional structure and is active in fields ranging from arms

control to forestry to minority rights. NATO is encouraging the growth of democracy in its former enemies and providing support for UN peacekeeping.

Canada has been intimately involved in European security issues since the Second World War. Its interest in ensuring a stable Europe and a meaningful transatlantic relationship remains as vital as ever. This issue of the *Bulletin* looks in depth at Canada's efforts to help put in place a framework of agreements and institutions capable of successfully meeting European security challenges.

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