



---

# news release

---

Date DECEMBER 7, 1983

170/83

For release

---

## AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ON GERMAN ARMED FORCES TRAINING IN CANADA

---

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Jean-Jacques Blais, announced the signing today of the Memoranda of Understanding pertaining to an Agreement between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany authorizing the training over a period of ten years, from January 1, 1984 to December 31, 1993, of German mechanized Army units at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo, Manitoba and German Air Force units at Goose Bay, Labrador. The Memoranda of Understanding, which specify how the Agreement will be implemented, were signed in Brussels by Mr. Blais and his colleague, the German Minister of Defence, Dr. Manfred Woerner, during the ministerial meeting of the Defence Planning Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). An Exchange of Notes constituting the Agreement will be signed later this month in Ottawa by Mr. MacEachen and the Ambassador to Canada of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Wolfgang Behrends.

The German Army has been training at CFB Shilo since 1974 under the terms of a ten-year Agreement due to expire on December 31, 1983. The German Air Force has conducted low-level flight training in the vicinity of Goose Bay since 1980 under a short-term Agreement which is also due to expire at the end of the month. The new Agreement will provide for the continuation of that training for a further ten years, although training at Goose Bay will run for an initial period of three years, subject to extension up to an

...2

additional seven years. Battalion-size units of approximately 700 troops will train for three-week periods between May and November each year at CFB Shilo and will fire conventional weapons, including tanks. Up to 16 fighter-bomber aircraft and 250 personnel may be stationed each summer at Goose Bay to conduct low-level flight training. All training will be supported by the Canadian Armed Forces who will ensure compliance with Canadian safety regulations.

The full cost of the training, including Canadian administrative costs, will be borne by Germany. The cost of environmental impact studies will be shared by the Canadian and German Governments. It is anticipated that the German Armed Forces will spend \$240 million in Shilo over the next ten years and \$22 million in Goose Bay over the next three years, not including the amounts German servicemen will personally spend in the local economy.

The Federal Republic of Germany has requested access to military training facilities in Canada because operational training in western Europe is restricted by the density of the population and air traffic. Provision of Canadian training facilities is a major contribution Canada makes to the collective security arrangements of western Europe and the North Atlantic Alliance. The new Agreement represents a further development of the excellent relations and close defence co-operation between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany. It also exemplifies Canada's continuing support for NATO and our ongoing contribution to the maintenance of effective Alliance forces, and to NATO's objective of deterring war.

The Agreement is similar to a ten-year training Agreement signed with the United Kingdom in 1971 and renewed in 1979, under which British armed forces train at Goose Bay and at CFB Suffield, Alberta.

The Governments of Manitoba and Newfoundland have been consulted about the negotiations and the training programs which have been designed to minimize any disturbance to the local environment, wildlife and residents. Provision has been made for ongoing monitoring of the environmental impact of the training and for consultations with the local communities.