



news release

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CANADA TO CONDUCT TRIAL OPEN SKIES

OVERFLIGHT OF HUNGARY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Bill McKnight, announced today that Canada will conduct a trial Open Skies overflight of Hungary on January 6, 1990.

The purpose of the trial is to test the administrative and operational procedures that are expected to be necessary for an Open Skies agreement. Such an agreement, which would allow short-notice surveillance of signatories' territory by unarmed aircraft, will be the subject of negotiations between the 16 NATO and 7 Warsaw Treaty Organization states at the Open Skies conference in Ottawa from February 12-28, 1990.

A Canadian Forces C-130 Hercules will leave CFB Lahr, Federal Republic of Germany, for Budapest on January 4. The aircraft will transit Czechoslovakia en route to Hungary, with the full cooperation of the Czech authorities. Weather permitting, the overflight will take place the morning of January 6 and will last approximately 3 hours.

The conduct of the overflight will conform to the anticipated requirements of an Open Skies agreement, except that the use of sensors on the aircraft will be prohibited and sufficient time will be allowed to permit thorough liaison and coordination between Canadian and Hungarian authorities.

The overflight will assist the negotiation of an Open Skies agreement by providing data on the logistical details that will have to be worked out to help ensure the success of an agreement.

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Canada has invited Hungary to conduct a reciprocal trial overflight of Canadian territory prior to the February conference.

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