



communiqué

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STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE REACHES AGREEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada has joined in the consensus decision to adopt an agreement concluding the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. The agreement, which is entitled 'Document of the Stockholm Conference, represents the fruits of almost three years of negotiation by the 35 participating states of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) to develop a set of confidence and security building measures (CSBMs) governing military activity in Europe.

The agreed set of CSBMs represents a substantial improvement over the existing confidence-building measures of the CSCE Helsinki Final Act. They will provide for the notification 42 days in advance of the military activity of ground forces in excess of 13,000 troops. In addition, annual calendars of military activity will be exchanged between the participating states and the holding of large-scale activities (over 40,000) would have to be notified two years in advance. States conducting notifiable military activity will be obliged to invite observers from all the other states to witness these activities. Provisions have been agreed to ensure adequate verification of compliance with the CSBMs, including a procedure for on-site inspection. The zone of application for the CSBMs will be the whole of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals. The CSBMs contained in the Stockholm accord will impart a new openness and predictability to military affairs in Europe.

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs welcomed the achievement of agreement at the Stockholm Conference as a major accomplishment in the effort to improve East-West relations and an event of considerable political and military significance for Europe. As the first multilateral arms control/security agreement adopted in over a decade it also provides a much-needed injection of vitality into the international arms control and disarmament process. It is our hope that the Stockholm Conference agreement will herald a revitalized period of East-West cooperation that will reduce the risk of conflict in Europe and provide a basis for the negotiation in the future of more extensive measures of military restraint and reductions.