

FACT SHEET

**NEGOTIATIONS ON CONFIDENCE AND
SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES
(CSBM)**

Background: The process of establishing Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) among the 35 states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) began with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. The Final Act contained a number of confidence-building measures, including encouraging nations to notify each other of, and invite observers to, certain military activities which take place on land in Europe. These measures were a good start. At the Madrid CSCE Follow-UP Conference (1981-1983) the CSCE states agreed to convene new negotiations to expand upon the measures endorsed at Helsinki.

The Stockholm Conference: These negotiations, known as the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe (CDE), began in 1984 and concluded in September 1986. When the 35 CSCE states adopted the Stockholm Document they assumed new commitments that went well beyond the measures contained in the Helsinki Final Act. Designed to reduce the dangers of armed conflict and of misunderstanding or miscalculation of military activities in Europe, these measures included: 42-days prior notification of certain military activities above a threshold of 13,000 troops or 300 tanks, exchange of annual forecasts of notifiable activities, prohibition on exercises involving more than 75,000 troops unless forecast 2 years in advance, mandatory observation of exercises above 17,000 troops, and on-site inspection (both on the ground and from the air) as a means of verification. This was a major innovation and the first East-West accord in which the Soviet Union agreed to inspection of military activities on its territory.

Implementation of the Stockholm Document: In general, implementation of the CSBMs regime has been encouraging. The Warsaw Pact has reported between 21 and 25 notifiable activities per year under Stockholm, while NATO has reported between 14 and 20 such activities annually. Observation requirements have also been met, although Eastern observation programs have been much more limited than NATO and Neutral Non-Aligned (NNA) programs. A total of 18 inspections have

been conducted, equally divided between East and West, demonstrating that inspection is an integral part of the Stockholm regime, as well as an effective instrument for building confidence. Increased contacts, especially among military personnel, created by observation and inspection of exercises have also contributed to better understanding. These achievements exceed what many observers would have believed possible a decade ago. Nonetheless, NATO believes more needs to be done.

Vienna and Beyond: On January 17, 1989, the CSCE Follow-Up Conference in Vienna agreed on the parameters for two new security negotiations in Europe, to begin in Vienna March 9. The first, talks on Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), will take place among the 35 participating CSCE states. It will build on the agreements reached in the Stockholm CDE negotiations in 1986. Separate negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe will begin on the same date between the 23 members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO within the framework of the CSCE process.

While both negotiations have security and stability as their target, the focus of each negotiation is substantially different. Whereas CFE will aim at reducing conventional force asymmetries in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals zone and establishing a higher degree of security at a lower level of forces, the CSBM negotiations will focus on openness and predictability in the field of military information and activities.

Towards Greater Openness: When the CSBM talks begin on March 9 the Allies will propose a strong, integrated set of measures aimed at furthering the process of confidence-building in Europe. In order to create greater openness and transparency of military organization, NATO plans to introduce a proposal for a wide-ranging, comprehensive annual exchange of information concerning military organization, major weapon deployments, manpower and equipment. The Alliance will also propose the establishment of a random evaluation system designed to assess this exchange of information.

In addition, in order to build on the success of the Stockholm Document and to create greater openness of military activities, NATO will propose measures in the following areas: more detailed information exchanges with regard to the notification of military exercises, improvements in the arrangements for observing military activities, and strengthening of the regime for ensuring compliance and verification.

Finally, the West will propose additional measures designed to improve contacts and communications between participating states in the military field; to enhance access for military staffs and media representatives; and to increase mutual understanding of military capabilities, behavior and force postures. NATO will also propose an organized exchange of views on military doctrine tied to actual force structures, capabilities and dispositions in Europe.

NATO will pursue these negotiations within the framework of the CSCE process. We believe that a secure peace cannot be achieved without steady progress on all aspects of the confrontation which has divided Europe for more than four decades. An enduring peace necessarily depends upon continued progress not only on military matters, but also on the basic issues which divide the continent, especially human rights. Security negotiations, therefore, should be seen as part of a dynamic, integral process which addresses the military, political, and human aspects of Europe's division.