

THE WHITE HOUSE
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FACT SHEET

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING
MEASURES AND DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE

Background: In January, 1984, the US, Canada, and 33 European states, including NATO, Warsaw Pact, and neutral and nonaligned countries convened in Stockholm the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe (CDE). It was mandated by the Madrid CSCE Follow-Up Meeting (1980-83) to agree on measures to reduce the risk of war due to misunderstanding or miscalculation. The CDE's Madrid mandate requires the confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) to be militarily significant, politically binding, provided with adequate forms of verification, and to cover the whole of Europe.

Western Measures: One week after the Conference opened, the 16 NATO participants proposed six measures designed to make the European security environment more open, predictable, and stable. The measures include:

1. An Annual Exchange of Information by the participating states of the structure of their ground- and land-based air forces in Europe;
2. An Annual Exchange of Forecasts of military activities notifiable in Advance;
3. Notification of military activities above a certain threshold 45 days in advance;
4. Mandatory Observation of military activities that are subject to notification;
5. Compliance and Verification allowing participating states to inspect activities that they suspect were not notified, but should have been; and
6. Development of Means of Communications, as warranted, to implement the first five measures.

How the NATO Measures Would Work: Measure 1 would establish a baseline of information on the location and structure of military forces available to the 35 participating states. At the same time, under Measure 2, a state would inform other participants of the notifiable military activities it had planned for the next calendar year. Measure 3, notification, would then provide more detail on a notifiable activity 45 days before it occurred. Measure 4 calls for observers to be present at a notified activity to determine whether the activity corresponds to the information provided in the notification. In the event that a state detected a military activity which it thought ought to have been notified under Measure 3, but wasn't, suspicions could be alleviated or fears confirmed by conducting an inspection under Measure 5. Finally, communication arrangements (Measure 6) could be used to seek additional information concerning a potentially destabilizing event.

Current Status

The tenth round of the Stockholm Conference opens on April 15 and closes on May 23, with two rounds to follow in late summer. Since the Conference adjourns on September 19, there must be substantive drafting progress during this round.