

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BRIEFING PAPER

**SECRET**

FACT SHEET: CONVENTIONAL STABILITY TALKS (CST)

I. BACKGROUND: CST MANDATE TALKS:

**RELEASED IN FULL**

- o Redressing the East-West conventional military imbalance has been a Western priority for years.
  - NATO seeks to remove force asymmetries between NATO and the Warsaw Pact and establish a higher degree of stability at a lower level of forces.
  - In addition to reducing forces, a conventional arms control accord should include stabilizing measures to increase openness and ensure a rigorous verification regime.
- o NATO is seeking to establish a forum to achieve these goals in the CST talks in Vienna; there are only two major issues remaining:
  - Geographic Zone of Application: i.e., how much of Anatolian Turkey will be included in the zone; the Turks have proposed a reasonable compromise that we believe the Soviets will ultimately accept.
  - Autonomy of CST From CSCE; We are continuing to insist that the CST remain autonomous from NNA review or modification. We have no more flexibility on the issue and are thus willing to sit and wait, even in the face of Allied pressure.
- o Progress and agreement on these questions must remain linked to our agreement on the dual-capable issue and to progress in the CSCE and the CST mandate talks.

II. ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION FOR CST

- o We have serious problems with the UK proposal for an Allied negotiating approach in the forthcoming CST, primarily because it detracts from the strategic unity of NATO.
- o We would much prefer a single-zone approach but have encountered vigorous resistance from the UK, which argues that our proposal was made too late and does not meet Allied preferences.
- o We also face resistance within NATO (i.e., France) and opposition from NNA countries to our insistence on autonomy for the CST.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Homme, Senior Reviewer**

- o France and the NNA want the CST closely linked with CSCE process, leaving open possibility of NNA oversight of talks between NATO and Warsaw Pact. *lot # 89D49, Box # 5*  
*incoming visit of UK*