

**Report by the Bulgarian Foreign (Vulkov) and Defense Ministers (Mutafchev) with a
Proposal for the Ratification of the CFE Treaty, 17 June 1991**

Attn: The Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria

REPORT

From: Viktor Vulkov – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Col. Gen. Iordan Mutafchev – Minister of Defense

Subject: Proposal for ratification of the CFE and an agreement for the maximum ceilings of the conventional weapons and equipment in connection with the CFE

[...]

The main goal of Bulgaria during the negotiations has been transforming their stated security goals in Central Europe to achieve equal security on the flanks. That is why it was necessary to radically change the initial position adopted by NATO and to overcome some attitudes of the USSR, in regard to its interest on the flanks. These attitudes were met with indifference and resistance by the rest of the then Warsaw Treaty member-states. The goal was achieved as equal ceilings were designated for the flank region.

We witness today the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Central Europe. NATO is reducing its forces in the same region and redeploying some of its armaments to Turkey, Greece, Spain and Portugal. Without the quantitative limitations for the flanks stipulated by the treaty, our southern neighbors could have unrestricted access to resources from Central Europe, i.e. nations in the NATO's flank could step up demands for competitive increases of their arsenals, the possibilities for this process being de facto unlimited.

The CFE contains a number of political guarantees for Bulgarian national security. These include the establishment of the Joint Consultative Group of 22 states, where the conduct of other participating states of potential concern may be subject of discussion. Another guarantee of much greater political weight is inherent in the possibility for convening, following a specific procedure, a special conference of the member-states, as provided for in the Treaty.

[...]

As a whole, the Treaty provides for maximum stability of the military-strategic situation, including that of our region, as well as for a measure of its independence from the political situation. No signatory state may

undertake in secrecy and at a short notice such military measures as increases in armaments, troop movements, etc. This frees Bulgaria from sudden military threats and large military expenditures.

[...]

The ceilings of weapons and equipment applicable to Bulgaria exceed substantially those that had been proposed by the USSR and other Warsaw Treaty members. The so-called "participation by sharing" is aimed at preserving a share in the maximum ceilings under the CFE, proportional to our share within the Warsaw Treaty prior to the reductions. For instance, our share in main battle tanks is now 740, whereas under the Budapest agreement Bulgaria was entitled to having 1470 tanks. On the average, our country retains 75 per cent of its weapons and equipment provided for by the Treaty—the highest percentage after Hungary.

[...]

The ratification of the CFE is necessary to ensure the continuation of the negotiations and the inclusion in them of all European states, i.e. also of our Western neighbor [Yugoslavia]. These negotiations will not be conducted on a bloc basis, thereby ensuring greater respect for Bulgaria's interests within a system of collective security.

[...]

June 17, 1991

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