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NATO/OTAN, 1110 Brussels/Bruuxelles • Tel.: 728 41 11 - Telex: 25-599
Telefax/Télécopieurs: 728 50 57 - 728 50 58

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SECRETARY GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGES GENERAL GALVIN'S SERVICE AS SACEUR

On the occasion of the departure of General Galvin, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, the NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner highlighted General Galvin's specific contributions to the Alliance and the qualities that made him such a highly regarded and respected commander.

In his remarks at the change of command ceremony on 24 June 1992 at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), the Secretary General said:

"... Your task has been to prepare NATO for shaping peace; particularly in adjusting its military structure to correspond to the new security environment in Europe.

"... You were one of the very first to recognize these new realities and moved swiftly and pragmatically to realign Allied Command Europe (ACE) to anticipate and meet requirements of the new NATO strategy by implementing your vision of new rôles for Allied forces in Europe and introducing the structural and conceptual changes to make ACE responsive to the challenges ahead.

"... all of us here today recognize your key rôle in withdrawing nuclear and chemical weapons from Europe, in securing a comprehensive conventional arms reduction treaty, in planning for equipment harmonization among the Allies, in designing new force and command structures, in supporting operations in the Gulf War and in promoting and participating in high-level military contacts with our former adversaries and new co-operation partners in Central and Eastern Europe.

"... you have consistently and remarkably demonstrated great imagination, resourcefulness and persistence as the commander and leader of the men and women from all the nations of the Alliance who have served ACE. It has been a privilege to have had you at my side during these crucial years for the Alliance.

"... It takes an exceptional character to achieve such an exceptional record. Like the best SACEURs, General Galvin has always been mindful of the political context in which he has worked.

"... You take with you into well-earned retirement from active service the admiration and gratitude of all the Allies for your exceptional professionalism in the face of great challenges.

"... At the same time, the Alliance and I bid a warm welcome to your successor General Shalikashvili, to whom you relinquish a command fully oriented to its new rôle in Europe."