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**NATO COMMITTEE ON THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY (CCMS)**

**DEFENCE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES  
WITHIN THE ALLIANCE**

In the wake of the launching of the Partnership for Peace by NATO Heads of State and Government two weeks ago, the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) is expanding the cooperation between NATO member countries and the countries of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) in defence-related environmental initiatives.

One of the first CCMS pilot studies to be set up on a defence-related topic was that on "Defence Environmental Expectations", co-chaired by the United States (\*) and the United Kingdom and launched in 1990. Among the study's achievements have been guidelines on environmental training and environmental principles, which subsequently were accepted by the NATO Council.

A pilot study on "Cross-Border Environmental Problems Emanating from Defence-Related Installations and Activities" was established in 1993 at the initiative of Norway and Germany. The study focuses on radioactive and chemical pollution in the following geographical areas: Barents and Kara Seas, Baltic Region, Black Sea including the Danube catchment area. The information gathered is extensive and of value both to the study and to other international cooperation efforts in this area. In addition several possibilities for practical cooperation on a bilateral or multilateral basis have been discussed between the participants.

A new pilot study on "Environmental Aspects of Reusing Former Military Lands" has been launched this week to assist NACC countries in converting former Soviet bases to civilian use. The pilot countries will be the United States (\*) and Germany. The study will seek to assist nations contending with contaminated military installations to design programmes to limit the damage or to develop methods for clean-up of those sites. Just such initiatives were called for in the 1994 NACC Workplan for Dialogue, Partnership and Cooperation and it is expected that several NACC partners will decide to participate.

Earlier this week, environmental experts from defence ministries and associations around the world gathered at the "2nd NATO/CCMS International Conference on the Role of the Military in Protecting the Ozone Layer" (\*). Among the conclusions and recommendations were pledges to meet the deadlines set by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Examples of how military organizations can achieve this objective include the F-16 fighter aircraft which is now manufactured and operated virtually without the use of ozone-depleting solvents and the F-14 and A-6 military aircraft which can now be maintained with little dependence on ozone depleting substances. These achievements were reported for the first time during this conference.

Finally, a seminar at NATO Headquarters later this week on "Defence, Environment and Economics" represents the Alliance's effort to define the costs of operating armed forces in an environmentally sound manner. This seminar is expected to mark the beginning of an important dialogue on the costs and the efficiency of environmental operations in the armed forces.

An on-the-record press briefing was held by the Assistant Secretary General for Scientific and Environmental Affairs, Dr. Jean-Marie Cadiou, by the co-chairs of the pilot study on "Environmental Aspects of Reusing Former Military Lands, Mr. Gary Vest (US) and Dr. Fritz Holzwarth (GE), by the director of the pilot study on "Cross-Border Environmental Problems Emanating from Defence-Related Installations and Activities", Ambassador Svein Aass (NO), and by the chairman of the International Conference on the Role of the Military in Protecting the Ozone Layer, Stephen Andersen (US)

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