

to be points of arrival are merely now intermediate stages.

The end of our negotiations must end as soon as possible, not because they represent the conclusion of the disarmament process, but because they are an initial unnecessary step. The conclusion of this negotiation forcibly implies the beginning of another.

The second aspect of disarmament which I wish to refer to is that there is a European dimension of security which we must not forget and that is the Mediterranean. The Mediterranean Sea is today the scene of an excessive concentration of armament.

Just as the process initiated in Helsinki has allowed for a transformation of the European reality, why cannot we come up with a grade of form of co-operation and security that would be in a position to take advantage of that experience in order to lay the foundation for confidence, democratic models and human rights in this part of the world, namely, the Mediterranean.

Third, let us not forget that how much more or as European disarmament process progresses the universal dimension of the problem becomes evermore evident. We are talking about problems which are not solely European, but are worldwide. This is clear in the case of chemical weapons.

In conclusion, the aspirations in the disarmament projects which have consistently failed because they were premature, today find a political context which gives them maturity. Thus, the Open Skies regime, which was evidently premature in the year 1955, is now mature in 1990 and we remain convinced that it is perfectly feasible to reach a double objective at which we aim with this regime.

On the one hand, the opening of the air spaces to observation flights, with a view to the strengthening of confidence and transparency and, on the other hand, co-operation in the peaceful use of air space by military aircraft.

As regards the conventional type of treaty, another old and frustrated aspiration today finds itself mature. The numerical magnitude of conventional armaments and its asymmetrical distribution in Europe are not only incongruous with a political evolution which is rapidly taking place, but what is even more serious is the fact that they may end up by constituting a dangerous restraint to the actual changing process in the expectations of co-operation which are being outlined.

Furthermore, reaching the conventional stability in Europe at lower levels of force is the lever which will allow to move decisively another parallel process and not less important, which is the drastic reduction of nuclear arms, the START negotiations and progress towards the conclusion of the Geneva convention on