

We should recognize, however, that the Belgrade Conference -- even more than the long negotiations in Helsinki and Geneva -- firmly established the fact that respect for the principle of human rights and fundamental freedoms by participating states was a proper and necessary subject for review by other states participating in the CSCE. And Canada and other Western countries firmly intend to carry forward this accomplishment to the Second Review Conference in Madrid.

Another important aspect of the review process stems from one of the provisions of the human rights principle as enunciated in the Final Act. That is that the participating states -- and I quote -- "confirm the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights and duties in this (that is, the human rights) field". This provision makes it clear that the principle was included in the Final Act not only to promote good relations between states, but also to touch the lives of private citizens and to improve the lot of ordinary people.

If any justification were needed, it was provided for the Helsinki watch groups which sprang up in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe to monitor their countries' implementation of the Final Act. It legitimized their right to follow and comment on progress in such CSCE undertakings as family reunification, family meetings, facilitation of marriage between nationals of different countries, the reduction of barriers to travel and to the free flow of information and ideas. These groups have a legitimate province to protest the violation of human rights in their countries.

Canada and other Western countries are profoundly concerned that these monitoring groups -- including the group in the Ukraine -- have been harassed, and that in so many cases their members have been imprisoned or exiled for activities quite legitimate under the terms of the Final Act. I assure you tonight that Canada will have these violations very much in mind as we approach the Madrid Review Conference. We shall insist on respect for the solemn undertakings of the Final Act, including the principle of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

One of our main goals will be to induce the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe to bring their human rights practices into line with their commitments under the CSCE. We shall strive, however, to achieve this goal without creating the kind of public antagonisms which, in fact, could endanger or worsen the plight of those we are attempting to help.