

1990 CSCE summit. We wish to assure the states represented there that we Germans want nothing but to live in peace and freedom with our neighbours.

Mr. Chairman, the year 1990 will be one of disarmament, if we want it to be. This depends to a decisive extent on the governments gathered here. Let us provide the political impetus for this. Openness and confidence-building, these are a key to progress and security, arms control, and disarmament.

An Open Skies agreement will enable us to make a major step forward along the road to security through comprehensive transparency. Yesterday, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze indicated new dimensions of such a transparency.

I would like to thank my colleague Joe Clark for his country's efforts in translating the Open Skies initiative into practice. When the U.S. President Eisenhower first proposed an Open Skies regime on July 21, 1955, this was still a revolutionary proposal that many did not consider realizable.

Today the time is ripe for comprehensive transparency and confidence building. The Open Skies regime proposed by President Bush on May 12, 1989 reaffirms the determination to proceed from confrontation to co-operative security. The CSCE Final Act of Helsinki, the Stockholm Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and the INF Treaty are milestones on this road.

The Open Skies regime opens up a new dimension of confidence-building. Countries which only a few years ago viewed each other with distrust want to permit members of the other alliance to carry out observation flights over their own territory. For the first time the Soviet Union and the United States will make their entire territory accessible to such a multilateral regime. What progress this is in terms of transparency. And what progress it is in co-operation between the countries of the two alliances, which will have to work together closely in performing the observation flights. I am convinced that this openness and co-operation will increasingly become the natural form of relationship in Europe and North America.

Here in Ottawa the network of co-operative security is being further strengthened. The extent of change can only be appreciated when seen in the historical context. In the 20th century mankind has suffered terrible wars, millions have lost their lives, immeasurable destruction has been caused and untold misery endured. The possibility created by the invention of the atomic bomb of destroying all life on earth prompted the New York Times as early as 1945 to make the prophetic observation that civilization and humanity will only be able to survive if there is a revolution of political thinking.