

"Information and Culture."

October 13, 1977.

. . . What tentative judgments can we reach in the fields of information and culture? We find that the general public in some participating states seems not to have any more access to newspapers and other publications from some other countries than before Helsinki, although sometimes there may have been increases in the amount of material imported. This raises the question of statistical reciprocity; let us look at this carefully in the coming weeks to see what it means. May I suggest that it is not only a question of how many publications or films or other materials are imported but how many people can read and see them? May I also suggest that we address ourselves to the real problem; again we see it as barriers.

Several of the measures related to culture are imaginative, technical innovations envisaging activities between the participating states on the bilateral and multilateral links, often with the assistance of appropriate international organizations. We believe that many of them would greatly further co-operation between the participating states. However, the full implementation of these projects will depend, at least in part, on unilateral action by governments aimed at promoting direct contacts between people engaged in cultural activities and at facilitating wider dissemination of and access to cultural achievements.