

drafting of various individual clauses, especially those pertaining to the freedom of religious practice, the freedom of movement, and, in co-sponsorship with Hungary, the protection and promotion of the human rights of minorities.¹²

During the conference, Canada and others expressed concern over progress in human rights by the Soviet Union and the East European countries. Concern was particularly evident over Romanian statements that qualified the binding aspect of the agreement on the Romanian Government, and with the suppression of demonstrations in Prague by Czech authorities.¹³ In response to the Romanian statements, Canadian Ambassador William Bauer stressed that, according to CSCE rules, official CSCE documents are adopted by consensus and are therefore fully binding on all CSCE States.¹⁴ At the CSCE concluding session, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark stated:

Not all participating States have made the same progress. Even in those participating States where reforms are being implemented, there remain pockets of resistance and all-too-frequent lapses into old ways. In some participating countries, minorities and religious believers continue to be harassed and persecuted, and attempts are made to deny them their rights, indeed their very existence, and to eradicate their cultural and religious identities.¹⁵

From 18 April through 12 May 1989, a CSCE Information Forum was convened in London to review the "information provisions" of the Helsinki Final Act and the Vienna Concluding Document. Unique to the Helsinki process was the active participation of journalists at the Forum, including six on the Canadian delegation. Among the approximately seventy proposals tabled at the meeting, one was co-sponsored by Canada, an omnibus text containing measures to eliminate travel restrictions and improve the working conditions of journalists, improve citizens' access to information of all kinds, and facilitate exchanges, seminars, and joint ventures among participating states. The proposal also addressed the impact of high technology on the dissemination of information, and emphasized the importance of a free flow of information to members of national minorities or regional cultures. The proposal is expected to be improved and re-introduced at the next main CSCE review meeting in Helsinki in 1992.¹⁶ In his opening address,

12 Richard Gwyn, "Soviet's Plight Almost Sank Rights Accord." *Toronto Star*, 18 January 1989, p. A27.

13 "Droits de l'Homme: Clark critique Prague et Bucarest." *La Presse*, 20 Janvier 1989, p. C12.

14 A. Bloed, "Successful Ending of the Vienna Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe." *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*, vol. 7 no. 1 (January 1989), p. 114.

15 Rt. Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, "On Conclusion of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe Follow-up Meeting: A Speech...[to the CSCE], Vienna, January 19, 1989." Department of External Affairs, *Statements and Speeches* No. 89/3, p. 7.

16 "CSCE Information Forum: Closing Statement by Ambassador William Bauer, Head of the Canadian Delegation," 11 May 1989, pp. 3-4.