

Adjournment Debate

particularly oppression of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Action must be taken to effect real change. I ask the Minister's undertaking that these matters be raised in Vienna by the Minister and the Canadian delegation.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the third follow-up meeting to the Conference on Security and Cooperation will begin on November 4 in Vienna, and all the elements of the conference process will be on the agenda, that is military security, economic cooperation, human rights and humanitarian cooperation. The participants will examine the extent to which existing commitments will be or have been kept and will analyse the proposals for making new progress.

Canada will first of all try to ensure that the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries substantially improve their performance in fulfilling their commitments under the Final Act of Helsinki and the Closing Document of the Madrid Conference, especially as concerns human rights and humanitarian cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, we shall be frank in criticizing the countries with a performance under all reasonable standards, but we shall certainly underline the sincere efforts made by other countries, even if the results do not meet our expectations perfectly.

We will follow a constructive approach, Mr. Speaker, but as in the past we will continue to insist strongly on the fact that commitments which have been made must be respected, and that sustained progress through stricter compliance with the provisions of the Final Act is an essential prerequisite to the

establishment of a climate of confidence vital for the improvement of East-West relations.

In so far as practicable, we would also like to achieve balanced progress in all fields covered by the Final Act. We take heart in the resounding success of the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures and certain aspects of security and disarmament in Europe. We are now considering ways of making the best of it.

In the field of economics we are striving to promote trade as well as industrial and environmental co-operation. Since we are dealing with human rights and humanitarian co-operation, we deeply regret the fact that recent meetings of so-called experts—including the one on human rights held here in Ottawa—were unable to produce final documents because of the systematic opposition of eastern countries or their token concessions.

Because we do have sound information and given the positions agreed to by western countries during previous meetings, when next we convene in Vienna we will continue to insist on the fact that, if we want to restore lasting security in Europe, improvements in economic and military sectors will have to be matched with progress in the field of human rights, including minority rights and religious freedoms, human contacts and reunification of families, as well as other important measures designed to improve the circulation of people, ideas and information.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6.30 p.m.