

Statement by Mr. William Bauer,
Head of the Canadian Delegation to the Conference on
Security and Co-operation in Europe,
to the CSCE Plenary on Human Rights Day,
Vienna, 10 December, 1986.

We are approaching the final weeks of our review of the implementation, by all signatory states, of the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document. Throughout this process, we have raised a number of issues which we know are of serious concern to many Canadians. From the beginning, when our Foreign Minister addressed that meeting, we expressed our disappointment with the record of compliance of certain countries, and made it very clear that if the Helsinki process is to achieve one of its major goals -- confidence between and among the participating states -- then there must be better compliance.

We have also made very clear our concern that continued and unrepentant violation of their undertakings by some countries would undermine not only the credibility of the Helsinki process, but also our trust in the countries concerned -- in their willingness to live up to any other undertakings they might enter into.

We want progress at Vienna, and for the Canadian Government and for most Canadians, an essential component of any progress would be a recognition by all signatory states that we have not yet achieved our goal of full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document, and an undertaking by us all that we will make serious efforts to improve our compliance. During recent weeks we have tried to develop a constructive dialogue along these lines; we have distributed the printed record of our own implementation and have tried to answer any serious questions put to us. Unfortunately, our efforts have not been reciprocated by certain delegations who persist in referring to any criticism as polemical or confrontational and who on occasion appear to suggest that there can be no agreement between representatives of what they call different social and economic systems about the meaning of the Final Act.