

Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe taking place in Geneva. What our representatives there are trying to do is to negotiate a realistic, workable compromise between the two approaches to relations between governments and between people -- to find common elements and to leave open as many possibilities as can be for future improvements in these relations.

This is not to say that peaceful relations between states, so insistently advocated by the Eastern European countries, are not important. They are indeed, and, if declarations of principle will help to ensure political stability in the international sphere, we shall gladly continue to co-operate in their enunciation -- particularly since they will convince many of the safety of planning on the basis of a generally peaceful and settled political environment. But the decalogue of Helsinki must not be engraved on tablets of stone at Geneva. The element of dynamism, the possibility of progressive change, must be implicit even in inter-state relations. Perhaps for this reason more than any other, we have insisted that the CSCE is not a peace conference -- a new Versailles that would harden inequities and prolong the bitterness that come from the division and alienation of peoples.

When Canada spoke of dynamic coexistence at Helsinki, we had in mind something far broader -- something that would influence significantly the shape of developments in Europe and North America over the coming years. At the same time let me make it as clear as I can -- this process of confidence-building and adaptation is not intended as a threat to anyone. Our wish is to exchange distrust and hostility for tolerance and confidence, not simply to create an arena for the elimination of one system by another. The CSCE, and whatever follows, must have a more positive objective -- the mutual acceptance and accommodation of systems -- or it will be a failure.

For Canadians and others who live in "open societies", the role and influence of people, of individuals, are an integral part of the dynamism of international relations. Foreign policy, to be relevant and meaningful, must enjoy public understanding and support. For us, therefore, it is important to consider relations between people as well as relations between states or political systems. If we are to improve relations between East and West, and this is the fundamental purpose of the CSCE, then it is essential to ensure that there are improvements in those areas that affect the peoples of our countries directly. The exchange of views, ideas and experiences to which your conference is devoted is, of course, a part of this essential process in East-West