

The necessity for the German people to be united is now being fuelled by sentiments that can no longer be bridled. It has become the only possible way to prevent a drift in the centre of Europe that might be even more destabilizing than the situation that presently exists.

The countries of the European community have expressed the hope in Strasbourg that this may come about in a framework of closer community integration and a strengthening of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. Integration with all the difficult compromises and negotiations that this entails will necessarily take longer than the phenomena that are now conspiring to forge the unity of a people divided by a long distant war. But, the parallel between German unity and the unity of Western Europe still holds good.

The CSCE, moreover, is the only context that can offer the political framework for German unity and the certainty that it can be achieved against the background of maximum international stability. And in this connection, too, we see the relevance of a Helsinki II. A new security is to be defined now that the threat we have lived with for 40 years is waning.

The great events of 1989, while not yet fulfilled, seem to be irreversible. We must take advantage of these new situations and boldly and imaginatively capitalize on the dividends of peace. Then we have to move onward towards eradicating the military confrontation, establishing balances that will do away with any possibility that either side might ever attack the other, enhancing the transparency and predictability of behaviour and of bringing strategic doctrines closer together.

In this context, the alliances are the structures that Europe needs to shake off the many uncertainties of the present. Economic co-operation is also one of the keynotes of the new Helsinki agreement. Redirecting our policy choices toward a very close association between the European community and the EFTA countries and the Eastern European countries. This will give rise to an increasingly more homogeneous economic area, albeit with different degrees of integration between the various parties.

It will be given a major boost from the drastic cuts in arms that we are presently negotiating and from the resources that this will release.

So, the Ottawa conference is of fundamental importance. And, I am sure that, in the awareness that 1990 promises to be a year of great hopes but also of great risks, we will find the way to make it an opportunity to confirm the former and contain the latter.