



# Statements and Speeches

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## THE LESSONS OF HELSINKI

A Speech by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Helsinki, July 30, 1975.

...The road to Helsinki has been long. For those who for two years have been actively engaged in the negotiations, it has been an uphill one as well but, in the course of that long journey from Helsinki to Geneva and now back to Helsinki, a number of milestones have been passed:

First -- Having set aside the confrontation and unwillingness to negotiate that are all too common elsewhere, we have provided the world with an example of how a consensus can be reached.

Secondly -- We have accepted as inevitable the factor of change in international relations, but we have nevertheless recognized the danger represented by the instability accompanying it, and we have committed ourselves to doing everything possible to avoid hostility and resolve conflicts. We have, in consequence, reaffirmed the United Nations Charter prohibition against the use of force between nations. In this connection, although we have declared borders to be inviolable, it does not mean that they are immutable; we have specifically agreed that they may be changed by peaceful means.

Thirdly -- We have recognized that security and co-operation are not matters of concern only to governments. To usher in a new era in Europe we need contacts among individuals, exchanges of views and opinions. We must be able to reunite families (and on that point I should add that the efforts of Canada, the Soviet Union and certain Eastern European countries to that end are meeting with increasing success).

These few milestones only mark the beginning of a road with limitless perspectives. The challenge is ours, now, to continue as we have begun, to make this road a permanent route towards security and co-operation. If we succeed, we shall have fulfilled the universal wish for peace and stability. We shall have released energies that can be directed towards other objectives -- to the reduction of military forces and disarmament, for example, to the setting-up of equitable management systems (as in the case of the law of the sea), to the introduction of more effective mechanisms for the settling of disputes. Most important of all, we shall have created a more favourable climate for the battle against the huge disparities

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