

For the Open Skies flights to be effective and credible, the aircraft conducting the observation flights should, in the opinion of my country, be equipped with adequate sensors. Countries should be free in principle to decide on the sensors they wish to use; restrictions should be limited and specific.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, I may point out that as we appreciate the participation of the neutral and non-aligned countries in the CSCE process, we should envisage the possibility to associate these countries also to Open Skies, once the system has proven that it serves its purposes.

Mr. Chairman, this time nature has not interfered with our discussions on Open Skies. I think this augurs well for the Conference, which I sincerely hope will be successful.

I would like to thank wholeheartedly with other colleagues the Canadian authorities for taking the initiative of bringing us all together for this unique exchange between countries of Warsaw Pact and NATO and for the very warm hospitality that the Canadian authorities have extended to all of us on this occasion.

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you, Hans. Colleagues, as a demonstration not only of the new thinking but of the new behaviour, we are running ahead of schedule, which is a practice I hope we can continue because that may allow us more time while we are all in Ottawa to discuss informally some of the other urgent matters in addition to Open Skies which we want to discuss.

I have consequently been looking for volunteers from this afternoon's list and am pleased to say that we will be hearing in order after our colleague from Bulgaria, Greece and Denmark.

May I now call upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, His Excellency Boyko Dimitrov.

HIS EXCELLENCY BOYKO DIMITROV,  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BULGARIA:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I would like first of all to express our appreciation to the Government of Canada for hosting this first stage of the Open Skies Conference.

Our special thanks go to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Joe Clark, for his initiative which offered us all the