

We must avoid the creation of areas of unequal security. In particular, care must be taken that a reduction of any military threat to a European land mass does not result in relatively greater dangers to stability in the oceans and in the lands.

This is a vital, if often overlooked, element that must be borne in mind if the CSCE process is to serve as a framework for the promotion of peaceful evolution in Europe as a whole.

For this reason, not least, my government has stated time and again that the issue of naval CBMs and arms control must be dealt with without further delay in preparation for the next phase of the conventional arms control process in Europe. Here, indeed, is an iceberg, a remnant from the Cold War that needs to be melted. And that is a different and altogether more welcome sort of global warming.

I conclude by thanking you, Mr. Chairman, for your initiative in convening this conference. I feel confident that it will bring us success that may be formally finalized and concluded in Budapest. Your initiative, Mr. Chairman, concerning the new Open Skies regime is in the best tradition of Canadian foreign policy, and in keeping with the role of Canada as a generous host to the seekers of peace, prosperity and stability, in a troubled world.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much. May I call now on the vice-chairman of this conference, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, His Excellency Gyula Horn.

HIS EXCELLENCY GYULA HORN,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HUNGARY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To begin with I would like to thank you for the hospitality and excellent organization we have seen here. And I must say it will be difficult for us to be as efficient as our Canadian friends are.

Mr. Chairman, it would be hard to find anything better than the Open Skies initiative to symbolize the favourable changes in the political situation in Europe and the world. When the idea was launched many did not conceal their scepticism as to its timeliness and feasibility. And now, nine months after President Bush's speech, we have come together in Ottawa in the hope that we can work out a treaty on an Open Skies regime and can begin implementing it soon.

Hungary gave tangible evidence of its confidence in the