

spending days collecting money. Some of the prejudices of decades fell like autumn leaves. The Red Cross and the Soviet Embassy received funds from thousands of Canadians. Giant Soviet transport planes landed in Montreal to pick up tons of supplies, supplementing deliveries to the Soviet Union by the Canadian Government. In the face of disaster, governments cooperated, and people came together.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think anything could better demonstrate what we have been saying for many years - that the ties between people, that grow naturally from common experience and humanity, are one of the keys to a peaceful world. When people know the truth, when they can have contact with each other, they will reach out across barriers, they will forge links far stronger than governments can ever build. When people are barred from travelling, from visiting with families, from having ordinary contacts, from worshipping freely, from speaking a language or practising a culture, their frustrations breed fear, resentment and instability. When arbitrarily imposed and artificial barriers are removed and people, ideas, and information can move without restraint, when freedom becomes a reality, then there will be no limit to the possibilities that will open before us.

Some participating States have learned that lesson in the past two years. But we must also remind ourselves where these changes have fallen short of expectations and commitments and of what remains to be done. Candour and openness have done much to achieve the success we now enjoy. This is not the moment to abandon them.

Not all participating States have made the same progress. Even in those participating States where reforms are being implemented, there remain pockets of resistance and all-too-frequent lapses into old ways. In some participating countries, minorities and religious believers continue to be harassed and persecuted, and attempts are made to deny them their rights, indeed their very existence, and to eradicate their cultural and religious identities. The human anguish caused by the forced separation of families due to the harsh restrictions on emigration continues in some countries.

In some countries, individuals are still being punished for exercising their right to know and act upon their rights, for criticizing their governments, and for conducting allegedly subversive activity. Indeed, one participating State has, at the very moment of the adoption of this forward-looking Concluding Document, trampled, in Prague, on both its old and its new commitments by taking violent action against groups engaged in the peaceful exercise of their human rights under the Helsinki Final Act and the Vienna Concluding Document.