

negotiations from member states would meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of common concern.

In the security area, the CSCE will have a role in mandating a further round of conventional forces reduction talks.

The CSCE should also increase its role in verification and confidence-building. Here, I have in mind a CSCE Verification Agency which would facilitate and co-ordinate verification and confidence-building activities mandated by the negotiations on conventional force reductions and confidence and security-building measures. In addition, there is a potentially valuable role to be played by the CSCE in crisis prevention and conflict resolution. This could involve the creation of a mechanism whereby panels could be established to facilitate dialogue if a crisis develops involving any participating state and to conduct fact-finding investigations if required. This mechanism could recommend a strategy to resolve the crisis - whether it be mediation, arbitration or even peace-keeping. If the crisis develops into conflict, the CSCE could initiate mediation activities. These activities could be supported by a permanent Institute for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes which would provide expertise for crisis prevention and conflict resolution activities.

Beyond the security field, the CSCE should build upon the other principles and undertakings contained in the Helsinki agreements. An early opportunity is provided by the Copenhagen Conference on the Human Dimension. The

essential structures of democracy should become a common commitment of CSCE members, including the right to free elections and the rule of law. Pluralism should also be legitimised through the CSCE process, as should the rights of minorities, freedom of religion and a prohibition on hate propaganda.

In the economic dimension, the CSCE may also have a valuable role in the future, building on the tremendous success of the recent Bonn Economic Conference. It should not duplicate existing and effective economic institutions such as the OECD, the IMF and the new European

Bank for Re-construction and Development. But there is room for growth in encouraging co-operation and dialogue designed to develop common principles of economic activity. I believe a permanent CSCE forum for economic dialogue, supplementing the emerging OECD work, is worth serious consideration.

One area requiring urgent attention in the East is the environment, which has been savagely disregarded and desecrated by the old regimes. One or more mechanisms might be created, possibly affiliated with the CSCE, to provide expertise and serve as clearing houses for programs and information concerning the state of the European environment and efforts to clean it up.

In designing a new role for the CSCE, we must avoid duplication and new bureaucracies. The goal is concrete progress, not talkathons. In this connection, if the CSCE is to assume an activist role in the new Europe, it may well have to modify, perhaps on a selective basis, the current principles of unanimity in its decision-making process.

NATO and the CSCE are two complementary institutions in building the new Europe. But there is another institution - the European Community - which is central to Europe's future identity and prosperity.

The European Community is now a welcome and fundamental pillar of the international system. It is one of the great achievements of the post-war era, and has served as a magnet and model for the reforming countries of Eastern Europe. A uniting Europe is an engine of prosperity and a trigger to enhanced trade. Increasing co-operation in the political and , eventually, the security fields will ensure European consensus and co-ordination in ways which can only enhance international stability. The EC was founded to subsume past conflicts in the common interest; that mission remains valid for the future.

But as I noted last February in Montreal, a wall dividing Europe cannot be supplanted by a wall around Europe. Two impermeable blocs cannot be replaced by one new bloc which whether in trade or security or political matters is less open to dialogue and co-operation than it is today. The new Europe must be an open Europe, open to the West and open to the East.

'Interdependence means opportunity. It also means challenge'

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev.



Photo: Bill McCarthy