

While the European Community constitutes the hard core of the effort to build a united Europe, and the Council of Europe in Strassbourg plays a primary role, I wish to emphasize the importance of President Mikhail Gorbachev's concept of a "common European home" and of President Francois Mitterrand's idea of a European confederation.

In the Helsinki process, we also need some institutional improvements and, among other proposals to this effect, I wish to refer to the suggestion by the Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to establish within that process a Council of European Co-operation. Let me add that this Council will not compete with any of the existing European organizations or institutions, nor will it be a substitute for them.

A well-prepared summit meeting of the 35 states before the end of this year will, we believe, give an essential impulse for setting up a novel framework of European security.

Distinguished delegates, the new security system which Poland is favouring should be guided by the mutual respect of rights and interests and should contain specific guarantees which would eliminate a possibility of a return to the rule of force, to political dictates and to satellitism. By following democratic policies and by respecting the rule of law, we shall be able to overcome the syndrome of the continent's division into zones of influence, which have had some negative a bearing on the international situation, particularly on the position of some smaller or medium-sized states.

Some instrumentalities which we can use to construct a new system are already at hand. There are the disarmament negotiations, especially those in Vienna, and the Helsinki process. The logic of their development must be subordinated to the political concept of a democratic restructuring of the European security system. Disarmament thinking may not be allowed to lag behind the requirements of the current situation and the course of events.

Hence, our call for a rapid and successful conclusion of the agreements which have already been outlined at the present negotiations and to advance to a new stage of accords which would lead to a comprehensive European rapprochement.

Mr. Chairman, this conference is devoted to a concept which was born a long time ago. This is not to say that it has lost any of its value. Far from it. The transformations I mentioned have created the conditions for its fruition; hence, our positive reaction to President George Bush's initiative on this matter.

Openness implies the absence of hidden and unfriendly intentions. Openness is a means of democratizing security