

We have before us an essential and well thought-out set of principles to form the basis of a negotiated settlement. We must adopt this here in London and see that all parties concerned abide by it. Agreement to these principles is essential to making progress; I think it crucial that the principles emphasize the dreadful issues of detention camps, forcible expulsion of civilian populations and the deliberate interference with the delivery of humanitarian aid.

There can be no exception to these principles. If armed bands on any side are led by local warlords not answerable to anyone, then surely all delegates to this Conference must brand them as outlaws. I choose this word carefully, and I mean it in its most literal sense. These groups would be declared outside the law. Accordingly, they would not receive support or protection from any of the states or leaders represented at this Conference, and they would be answerable before the appropriate judicial tribunals including, possibly, war crimes tribunals -- a proposal we believe should be considered by this Conference.

Genuine direct negotiations, as opposed to rhetorical battering among all parties, must begin. The existence of extremists on all sides cannot be used as an excuse to prevaricate. The parties must come together, mindful that Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) principles are fundamental to this process.

There is surely no reason why differences, deep as they may be, cannot be resolved through peaceful negotiations rather than bloody violence. There is nothing mysterious about ending the killing: the only way to stop is to stop. The role of the international community in this Conference has to be that of the honest broker. The international community must be prepared to accept its responsibility to see that a just and fair-minded peace is achieved. We need imagination, flexibility and determination to end the suffering.

This Conference and the negotiations it will launch have another equally important purpose -- to provide a framework within which all the republics of the former Yugoslavia can settle their differences and work out their long-term future together. Here again, the international community has a vital role. But our presence as an international community, our willingness to assist, does not let the peoples and governments of the former Yugoslavia off the hook. They themselves must find new ways to live together. Think ahead to when today's children in the region, physically and emotionally scarred by war and hatred, are grown up; they will have to live in the future as neighbours. Geography will see to that. The sooner this reality is faced, the better.

We are concerned that tension in Kosovo does not lead to another tragic outbreak of fighting. It is not good enough for the Serbian authorities to say this is an internal matter. Human rights and human dignity are not internal matters. We must