

the CSCE provided, and will continue to provide, an opportunity for dialogue. That should not be underestimated, particularly if the many strands of dialogue can be woven into a fabric of greater understanding and broader agreement among all signatory states, regardless of their size. But if the CSCE degenerates further into a dialogue of the deaf; if we consistently talk past each other; if, indeed, the very words we use have different meanings, then what can we accomplish? If we continue to indulge in semantic manoeuvring, and avoid concrete action, how long can the credibility of the CSCE process survive?

The credibility of the process is vital, Mr. Chairman. If we simply keep issuing documents and restating our obligations, without carrying out the undertakings we have committed ourselves to at the highest political level, then we run the risk of destroying faith in the utility of the CSCE system. Moreover, without steady progress towards full implementation of all aspects of the Final Act, it will be impossible to create the confidence which is essential to the improvement of East-West relations, which was our primary goal ten years ago. In my view, unless we can create that confidence, it will be particularly difficult to make progress in the fields of arms control and disarmament.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the people whose representatives and leaders we are, will inevitably -- and justifiably -- question the value of the forms of cooperation spelled out in the Final Act if they do not see concrete and tangible evidence of this cooperation touching their everyday lives. Does cooperation contribute to our sense of security? Does it make it easier for people to get together, regardless of the ideological community in which they live? These are questions for which our people expect more positive answers than we have provided so far.

Fortunately there will be, in the near future, opportunities to reaffirm -- in a number of fields -- the validity of the path we charted for ourselves in 1975. The Cultural Forum will be meeting in October. We shall be able to exchange views on the ways cultural problems have been dealt with since Helsinki, Belgrade and Madrid. I do hope that the opportunity will be used to make a realistic assessment and constructive recommendations.

The Meeting of Experts on Human Contacts, which will take place in Berne in April 1986, will be another important landmark in the CSCE process. Canadians have an