

Second, we should provide an adequate organizational and procedural structure for the conference.

Finally, having done these things, we can readily set a date and place for the conference.

The first of these tasks will be the most difficult and most important. It will also be the most time-consuming, but we believe that none of us should force the pace in tackling it. Each item to be inscribed in the conference agenda should be carefully examined. The words used in the agenda and to elaborate on the items can determine the direction of the conference and either help or hinder the achievement of consensus.

It has been suggested that ministers at the conference, after their own debate of the issues, should assign tasks to various commissions of officials, each of which would consider a number of propositions. We agree with this suggestion and think we should try in our consultations here to provide mandates that would, in effect, be an elaboration of the agenda items, setting out in a general, and, if possible, non-controversial, way the various points the proposed commissions would consider at the conference. These points would then be debated, amended, accepted or rejected in the commissions or by the conference itself. In drawing up these mandates, it will become evident whether or not sufficient areas of common ground can be found to ensure success.

I might mention very briefly here the Canadian approach to some of the possible agenda items.

In the field of security, one area will be that of a declaration of guiding principles governing relations between states. We agree on the importance of this item, and we think there should be an exchange of views in Helsinki on the elements which might go into such a declaration. Great care will have to be exercised in its formulation. For example, while the principle that frontiers should not be changed by force is one that should gain universal acceptance, we should avoid phrases that give the impression that the conference is taking on the responsibility of a peace conference by establishing permanent frontiers in Europe or recognizing them in international law.

In our view, the conference should also seek to reach agreement on certain military aspects of security, including, perhaps, advance notification of military movements and observations of manoeuvres as steps that would help to build confidence between countries and help to enhance stability.

In the Canadian view, co-operation should be as important a part of the conference as security. In this field, the conference might, for one thing, contribute to and complement efforts already under way under United Nations auspices to preserve and improve the environment. The conference might also suggest means to increase and extend the benefits that accrue to all peoples through advances in science and technology. In the field of trade and