

RE-BUILDING THE HUMAN DIMENSION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

What of the role of people in the great questions of security today?

In this third address in the Soviet Union, I would like to speak of the human dimension in international relations on two distinct levels that are both of major importance to the Canadian Government: firstly, ways in which informal, people-to-people contacts can build a better world; and secondly, how Canada sees the role of the "human dimension" in international affairs through the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) process.

Too often, the conduct of international relations is considered only in terms of relations between heads of state or between officials, conducted through state visits or formal meetings. We rarely talk about the role of people in the conduct of international relations. People, after all, make up the body politic. While a government may articulate the collective expression of the public mood, there can and must be a role for individuals -- the critical human dimension -- on the international scene.