

in the First World War and came near to doing the same in the Second World War. So that there is, I believe, a case for building into the CSCE process some procedure for conciliation.

The success of the European community has, I believe, solved that problem in part of Europe. No one in practice now argues about Alsace-Lorraine, no one argues about Schleswig-Holstein. We may perhaps need a means of conciliation, a means of trying to ensure that any future disputes and difficulties elsewhere can be identified and conciliated before they get out of hand. This might be one of the aims of the new CSCE process alongside, of course, the normal procedures of the United Nations.

The European Community offers an example of how countries can work together in a common legal framework, with convergent economic policies and a shared political dialogue. The Community does not offer itself on a take-it-or-leave-it basis to the countries of Eastern Europe. They are not ready, either politically or economically, at this stage, for full membership, though that day may come.

What the Community offers now does not foreclose the possibility of eventual membership. We offer enthusiastically the kind of help and association which the countries of Eastern Europe need now. The relationship between them and the Community will develop as their democracy becomes entrenched and as they establish free market economies.

So, Mr. Chairman, you, the Canadian Government, were prescient in calling this meeting. It could not possibly be more timely. It forms part of a fairly complex jigsaw of arrangements. Of course, fitting the pieces together may be hard, but I believe we can now see that the pieces for those arrangements are all there. This meeting in Ottawa under your chairmanship may be looked back on, not just for the progress which we have made on Open Skies, important though that certainly is, but as the first meeting of a new era in which confrontation is replaced by co-operation between us all, and in which together we manage successfully the problems of peace and of prosperity.

Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Hurd. And now I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, His Excellency Roland Dumas.

HIS EXCELLENCY ROLAND DUMAS,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FRANCE:

Mr. Chairman, Ministers, allow me, first of all, on behalf of