

And in the Soviet Union we have seen remarkable elections. Elections in which party officials were soundly defeated. Elections where some victors would have been imprisoned only a few years ago for their advocacy of their heretical views. And last week many of us watched with some wonder as Andrei Sakharov, not long ago an exile in his own land, took the podium to publicly criticize the watching leader of the Soviet Union.

We look forward to the legal and constitutional reforms which will firmly secure the rule of law in the Soviet Union and work towards the fulfillment of the human rights obligations that its government has agreed.

We will continue to respond, constructively we hope, to any action or policy that we believe to run counter to the achievement of these fundamental aspirations. We shall watch closely, offer encouragement and wish the Soviet Union every success.

There are, unfortunately, some countries whose record has not matched their Vienna commitments. They have continued to repress critics, to prevent free movement, to punish the relatives of those who have allegedly left a country "illegally", to suppress information, and to argue that the right to deny their people basic freedoms is an attribute of state sovereignty. These politics are outmoded and unacceptable. These countries must be persuaded to join the rest of Europe on the path to renewal and reform.

One of them is Bulgaria, its treatment of its Turkish minority population is cause for particular concern. We very much hope that Bulgaria will abide by its CSCE obligations in bringing this issue to a prompt and acceptable resolution.

Another country, Romania, has formally declared that it is not bound by the important new human dimension undertakings in the Vienna Concluding Document. Yet these are obligations to which it joined in the consensus. Romania has defied all attempts to engage in dialogue using procedures established by that document. It has, in short, openly and conspicuously violated important elements of the Vienna Concluding Document. It has continued, with increasing heavy-handedness, to ignore the fundamental rights and freedoms of large numbers of its people. It justifies this conduct on the grounds that it is adhering to a purer concept of the CSCE principles than are all the other participating states.

This is not the place to discuss Romania's arguments, other than to say that we reject them totally. It is up to Romania to decide whether it wishes to participate in our collective search for new norms and dialogue benefitting our people and the peace and security of Europe.