

results for the future.

And with these words, Mr. Chairman, I thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Moller. And may I now turn the floor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, His Excellency Mark Eyskens.

HIS EXCELLENCY MARK EYSKENS,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BELGIUM:

Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues, I, too, would like, first of all, to thank Canada for its hospitality on the occasion of the Open Skies Conference, the importance of which is even greater than was imagined only a few months ago.

It is true that in a few months the world has changed so that what was certainly immutable yesterday has now been uprooted by precipitous events.

This doesn't mean we have gone astray or that we lacked the necessary vision. Just the opposite. The declarations that were adopted during the Alliance Summit in March 1988 and May 1989 pointed out objectives in which some, especially in the field of conventional weapons, are being achieved. The reduction of armaments, as necessary as it is, is not an end in itself and can only be actual in the sense that it works towards a peaceful Europe -- a Europe that can overcome its divisions, a fairer, democratic and more human Europe.

Belgium, like its allies, always hoped to see the division of Europe disappear, a military division, but also a political and ideological division. The events of the last few months in East Germany and in Czechoslovakia, after the reforms undertaken in Poland and Hungary, the upheavals in Bulgaria and, finally, and in Romania show that a very painful chapter, a dramatic chapter, in European history is over.

And it was thanks to the reforms under way in the U.S.S.R., a reform in which President Gorbachev proudly took the initiative and in which we should stress the ambition. We support them because it is in everyone's interest and, first of all, for Europeans, that these reforms succeed if we want a peaceful order to be set up throughout all of Europe.

The fact that we are meeting here today in Ottawa reflects the contribution that our North American allies bring to the stability of Europe. This contribution is not only required, but also