

benefit because, in essence, they all deal with the well-being of people.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that what the Final Act is all about, is people. Concern for disarmament, for peace, is really concern for our people. So are concerns which impinge more directly on individuals and communities. This assertion is not to arrogate any special priority. The emphasis that Canada places on the principle of human rights and its application in humanitarian co-operation between participating states is not a distortion of the balance of the Final Act. The mutual confidence that that document was intended to impart to our relations is basically to build confidence between people. I must note, with great sadness, however, that since the Final Act was signed, people have been harassed, arrested, tried, exiled and imprisoned, simply for trying to monitor and to exercise their rights, endorsed in the Act. This persecution is inevitably a major cause of friction in East-West relations today.

Although human rights are open to varying interpretations, the Final Act requires agreement on certain concepts and on the "inherent dignity of the human person". We have subscribed to common standards of human rights behaviour in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the relevant international covenants. I believe, then, that it is correct and important to urge all participating states to bring their human rights practices into line with the norms to which they have freely subscribed in these agreements. Mr. Chairman, this follow-up meeting of the CSCE provides a legitimate and, indeed, a necessary forum in which to do so.

Since the Final Act was signed, the movement of people between East and West has become more open and, in our relations with some of the participating states, there have been gratifying advances in family reunification and visits. But, there remain outstanding cases and problems which basically are of two orders: on the one hand, there are administrative barriers, such as the multiplicity of authorities with which individuals and our embassies must deal regarding travel for family reasons. Such problems can be overcome by making practical changes. On the other hand, there is the far more vexing problem of complications over the status of sponsors for family reunification and family visits. In rejecting pleas to co-operate in overcoming this problem, some of the participating states adduce Principle VI on non-intervention in internal affairs. But this principle pertains to illegal interventions, exercised by