

It is a great pleasure to be in Copenhagen for the opening of the second Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE. I wish to extend my gratitude to Her Majesty the Queen and the Government of Denmark for their gracious hospitality, and to the Foreign Minister of Denmark, Mr. Uffe Elleman-Jensen, for his kind invitation that brings us all here today. I would also like to pay tribute to Baron Huxthausen, the Executive Secretary of this Conference, for the hard work performed so successfully by him and his staff.

Denmark's great story-teller, Hans Christian Andersen, has touched generations with his parables which teach that, in the end, firm hope and patient virtue will triumph. As we gather at the dawn of a new era for a new Europe, Hans Christian Andersen's message rings truer than ever. Europe's patience and Europe's hopes for a new freedom, a new prosperity and a lasting peace are being rewarded.

In 1975, when the CSCE came to agreement on its first set of principles and undertakings, we were in the midst of an era dominated by tension and permeated by fear. Hopes were fragile for a new age of human rights, democracy, and understanding between the nations of East and West. The CSCE was born out of the desire to move beyond fragility and tension, to agree on common principles and rights, and to begin the process of moving forward towards a new Europe.

There were many skeptics then, skeptics who asserted that the Helsinki undertakings would remain but pieces of paper, far removed from the harsh reality of state behaviour.

In 1990, as we emerge from a year of revolution in Europe - and begin a decade of reconstruction - we see now how important the CSCE was and what it can still become.

The shared principles and undertakings of the Helsinki process were a beacon for the brave, new democrats of Europe and a manifesto for the millions who hungered for a new freedom. And now, as we enter a period of consolidation in Europe, the CSCE can expand on those principles and undertakings, enshrining in consensus what has been achieved and what remains to be accomplished.

For Canada, the CSCE can become the drawing board for the new European architecture. Its comprehensive membership, its broad mandate, and its unusual flexibility provide the prospect for growth into a vibrant institution for political dialogue, practical co-operation and common endeavour.

The CSCE also provides for the essential element of an open Europe. It involves both the Soviet Union and North America. The new Europe must be a large Europe, a hemispheric fabric of common achievement, common principles, and shared engagement. We must not replace two old blocs with one new bloc; the new Europe must be open to the East and to the West. The CSCE can be an instrument of this wider Europe, a Europe whose very breadth will enhance prosperity and strengthen our peace.