

benefit from the regime. No doubt there are differences as to what equity means and how it can be achieved.

NATO countries have put forward their conception of Open Skies in their Basic Elements Paper. We have just had tabled a paper from Warsaw Treaty countries. We have heard, today and yesterday, from the various foreign ministers of both alliances. Mr. Shevardnadze has introduced the notion of equality, which I take to mean equitable access to benefits. This is a concern that we need to take seriously.

In general, there appears to be a fair amount of common ground in our approaches. It is our task now, as ministers, to identify that common ground in a communique, so that these negotiations will advance quickly, so that Open Skies can become a functioning element of East-West confidence-building as soon as possible.

I am greatly encouraged by the pace with which events have progressed so far. It has been less than a year since President Bush re-launched Open Skies in his speech in Texas, yet here we are ready to commence detailed negotiations on a treaty text with the evident desire to sign an agreement a few months hence. Those of you familiar with the history of arms control negotiations will see this as a record.

I am encouraged also by the rapidity with which Canada's trial overflight of Hungary was put into play. I want to emphasize the outstanding cooperation we received from our Hungarian and our Czech colleagues in conducting the trial. The results of our joint experiment were discussed in detail at the Budapest preparatory meetings for this Conference. I believe this has cleared away a lot of the technical questions that

might otherwise hamper these negotiations. This test of the nuts and bolts of Open Skies demonstrated that if our will to cooperate remains strong, the concept can be made to work.

As we go into our closed session, I believe it is useful to outline the key issues with which we will be dealing:

- whether aircraft will be nationally or collectively operated;
- determining the types of sensors to be allowed onboard Open Skies aircraft;
- determining the number, or quota, of overflights each participating state will be obliged to receive or permitted to carry out. I believe a compromise can readily be found on this issue using a

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East-West synonymous with
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formula that takes into account as its basis the realities of geography, geographic size and population;

- determining the structure and language of an Open Skies treaty text.

In an effort to expedite the negotiation, Canada, in conjunction with its allies, has prepared a draft treaty text that we hope can serve as the basis of discussions over the next two weeks.

Let us move as far as we can towards agreement in Ottawa, so we can reconvene in the spring in Budapest to sign a final treaty text.

Let us make Open Skies our first step onto the uncharted ground of our future security in Europe. We face an

enormous challenge, but we also face unprecedented opportunity. By putting our political will into practice we, together, can make the term "East-West" synonymous not with confrontation and rivalry, as it has been for the last 40 years, but synonymous, instead, with good will and cooperation.

We have also spoken today and yesterday about the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, and about the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Some have spoken about the reunification of Germany, which we all acknowledge as a matter for the German people to pursue, and which we welcome, confident that those aspects that are of interest to others will be discussed in the appropriate forums.

The CFE negotiations are tremendously important. We are all greatly encouraged by what we have heard from Presidents Bush and Gorbachev in these past days about the reduction of troops in Europe. All speakers believe that we have the basis for proceeding rapidly to the conclusion of a CFE agreement. Let us do so in time for signature of a treaty at a CSCE summit meeting this year. Then let us move towards further measures to increase conventional stability.

We are all agreed that there should be a summit-level meeting of the CSCE in 1990. The potential of the CSCE is enormous. Mr. Dienstbier spoke of the CSCE as a comprehensive framework for pluralism. It is the one body that has, in its composition and in its mandate, the ability to act as a framework for the construction of a new peace and prosperity in Europe.

How should we prepare for a summit? Some have suggested that we should do it at Copenhagen in June, or at the second Open Skies meeting this spring in Budapest, or at a separate meeting of foreign ministers. Those are questions to be decided.

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