

But, in deciding whether such a conference would be worthwhile, we will need more information from the Soviets about what the meeting should accomplish. Convening a conference is no substitute for acting on existing obligations. Quite the contrary. A Moscow Conference on Human Rights would be credible only if there is substantive and tangible action on existing obligations, as a condition precedent. As the sponsor of the last CSCE Conference on Human Rights, Canada would insist that journalists, petitioners and other interest groups have the same rights respecting the Moscow Conference that they enjoyed in Ottawa.

We would be seeking other guarantees, before determining whether to accept or reject Mr. Shevardnadze's latest proposal. The result of such a conference would have to be to advance this aspect of the review of the Helsinki Final Act now taking place in Vienna, not detract from it.