

agreement at 11 o'clock.

And now may I turn the floor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, His Excellency Krzysztof Skubiszewski.

HIS EXCELLENCY KRZYSZTOF SKUBISZEWSKI,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POLAND:

Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues, may I be permitted to open my remarks by referring to the political context of our meeting.

The states of central and eastern Europe have rejected various forms of totalitarianism. The Europe of two ideologies and the confrontation based on them is becoming a thing of the past, though the two multilateral alliances still exist.

Poland has been the originator of the changes in central and eastern Europe. We should all remember the Solidarity movement and its impact on the various transformations that now take place in that region. In fact, the East-West dichotomy has lost its former sense. As a result of successful efforts to bring about a change in our part of the continent, Western Europe, the United States and Canada, and other states, including Japan, have reacted to our endeavours and gave us economic help and other support. We express our gratitude. The word "solidarity", which has a special importance in Poland, has now acquired an all-European and Atlantic meaning.

A single Europe is emerging. It is a Europe of democracy, pluralism and humanism. The construction of a new system of European security, the rejection of the East-West formula of relationships and the making of new arrangements of co-operation and cohesion should be subordinated to these values.

All this offers a serious challenge to our statesmanship. Old structures usually outlive the circumstances that created them. The inertia of old behaviours and habits is strong, and there is a justified fear of instability. Such anxieties should not be disregarded. But we do believe that they will soon be overcome and, in any case, we wish to act with prudence.

There is need to arrive at a long-term concept for the development of pan-European relations. Some most recent changes that are beginning to take place in the heart of Europe and that are fundamental require the creation of a new system of European security. It is with this in mind that we are considering the proposal to call a summit conference of the 35 states which participate in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We feel that such a summit conference should consider various initiatives to modify the status of our continent.