

- we have taken a large step towards preventing State action against an individual wishing to exercise his right to leave through the arbitrary imposition of restrictions based on national security grounds. The Vienna Concluding Document also ensures that long-term refuseniks will have the time since they were last involved in national security work retroactively credited against any limit during which any restriction will be applied.
- we have undertaken to respect the privacy and integrity of postal and telephone communications, to allow people to listen to radio from outside the country, and to receive, publish, and disseminate information more freely. Scholars and teachers will be able to have more direct contacts and access to research materials.
- we have taken important new steps to protect the rights and improve the working condition of journalists, and provide for the freer flow of information and greater access to culture.

Built on this solid achievement in human rights and Basket III, and providing a mechanism for its protection and enforcement, is the Conference on the Human Dimension. We welcome the agreement of all participating States to respond to requests for information and to consult bilaterally on specific cases and situations. We look forward to the meetings in Paris, Copenhagen and Moscow where we can pursue the issues of compliance and of new measures to enhance our achievements, as well as to deal with unresolved cases and situations. This Conference and the ongoing mechanism will keep human rights, human contacts, and related humanitarian issues, central to the CSCE process, ensuring that they become a permanent part of the European political landscape.

A symbolic but important aspect of the Conference on the Human Dimension is that one of its meetings will be held in Moscow. It is a measure of the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union during the Vienna meeting that this idea, initially received with skepticism by many participating states, should ultimately have been considered seriously and adopted. It is no secret that the record of compliance of the USSR with its human rights commitments was a subject of scrutiny and criticism by my country and others. It is also no secret that Canada was one of the last to be convinced that such a proposal could be considered. This was not a matter of politics or ideology. It was an issue of principle and practice -- one in which Canadians, including the many whose roots lie in Eastern Europe, have a direct and personal interest.