- In July the West tabled its major proposal in the security dimension, calling for two distinct negotiations to follow the Vienna Meeting: one on confidence and security-building measures, and one (involving only the 23 members of the two military alliances) on conventional stability.
- At the time of writing (December 9), the Fourth Session (September 22-December 18) has made some progress in determining areas of agreement and registering texts, but there are major problems to be resolved.
- In spite of declarations in Moscow about "new thinking" on human rights issues, the Soviet Delegation at Vienna has shown little movement in the human dimension. It has countered the West's emphasis on certain civil and political rights by stressing economic and social rights. (The West agrees that such rights are important but does not regard them as central to the CSCE). On human contacts, it has responded to the West's insistence on the right to leave one's country and return to it by attempting to establish a "right" of entry to another country.
- The Soviets have also pressed their proposal for a meeting in Moscow on human rights and humanitarian cooperation. In July they promised that plenaries would be open and journalists and NGOs would have access, but other officials have backtracked somewhat. The West has declined to discuss followup in detail until we know what progress will be possible in a Vienna Concluding Document. We have noted that the West has its own proposal for follow-up, and that there will have to be considerable improvement in Soviet human rights performance for us even to consider seriously such a meeting.
- In the security dimension, the East has largely accepted the West's idea of two separate negotiations, but the NNA with Eastern support have called for closer linkage between the conventional stability negotiations and the CSCE.
- Canada has been a leader in criticizing the human rights performance of the Soviet Union and some of its allies and in insisting that progress in the security dimension be balanced by progress in the human dimension.