

arena. The present meeting offers an opportunity to accelerate the Vienna negotiations. We must make full use of that opportunity. For in spite of much progress, significant problems remain outstanding.

We hope, Mr. Chairman, our partners will respond favourably to the proposals recently tabled by the Western allies and that they will contribute to the establishment of further common ground through proposals and flexibility of their own. If so, there is every reason to hope that the present meeting will be the energizing injection that the Vienna talks so obviously require if momentum is to be maintained.

While the brunt of the remaining works has to be borne by our negotiators in Vienna, it is clear that early conclusion of a treaty requires constant political level attention.

For our part, we would in principle be open to the idea of a possible CFE foreign ministers' meeting later this year in order to facilitate progress in what we hope at that time will be a few remaining outstanding issues.

While concentrating on the final stages of the first phase of CFE, we also need to start looking beyond this. The agreement which seems now to be within reach is an important step towards a stable and lasting new security order of Europe. But it will not in itself solve all the continent's security problems. Hence, there must be no break in the conventional arms control process following a first agreement. The allies are on record as forcing further steps to enhance stability and security in Europe. These could include further reductions, inclusion of new equipment categories and stabilizing measures.

Developments in the various individual areas of arms control are obviously inter-related. CSBMs can make a vital contribution to the consolidation of the emerging new security structure in Europe. The chances that a start agreement to reduce strategic nuclear arms by fifty per cent can be concluded in the course of this year, and have obviously been increased as a result of the recent meeting between Mr. Baker and Mr. Shevardnadze.

Significant progress appears to have been made also with regard to chemical weapons. Hopefully, this will pave the way for early agreement at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on a global ban on chemical weapons.

In the near future, it will also be time to launch negotiations on land-based nuclear missiles of shorter range.

Mr. Chairman, last year was one of unprecedented political change and upheaval. This year's challenge is to see to it that the old security order in Europe, characterized by mutual