



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No:
No.:

83

REFERENCE

DIFFUSION:
RELEASE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 7, 1977

NOTES FOR THE OPENING CANADIAN STATEMENT
BY MR. KLAUS GOLDSCHLAG, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
TO THE MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
IN BELGRADE, OCTOBER 6, 1977

We are all indebted to our host government for permitting our preparatory meeting and us to inaugurate this imposing and imaginative conference building and for all the courtesies that are being extended to us. The history of Yugoslavia has given it an important stake in the themes that are before us and she has done much, through her policy and through her actions, to advance them. It is entirely fitting, therefore, that the capital of Yugoslavia should imprint its name on this meeting.

A little more than two years ago the political leaders of our countries met in Helsinki to subscribe their signatures to the Final Act. They did so "mindful of the high political significance" of that document and "declaring their determination to act" in accordance with its provisions. They recorded their resolve to continue the process that had culminated in the signing of the Final Act and directed us to meet in Belgrade this year for this purpose. We are here today, therefore, to take stock of what has been accomplished in the interval and to see where we go from here.

When the Final Act was signed, it evoked varied reactions. There were those who attached great hopes and expectations to it. They saw it as marking the passage of Europe and North America from the period of cold war. They took seriously the more secure and civilized international order to which it seemed to point. Others were more skeptical.