

4CSCE has been an extremely important instrument for countries in both East and West. It has served as the bridge, often the only bridge, from sterile disagreement to fruitful co-operation. It has facilitated in many ways the quite extraordinary changes of the past year. And it is the only institution that comprises all of the countries directly engaged in European security.

A costly lesson of the history of this century is that European security and North American security are indivisible. None of us is secure when any of us feels threatened.

We support the call for a summit level meeting of the CSCE later this year and believe we should begin preparations immediately.

We believe that we should all strive to be in a position at that summit to sign an agreement on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

Further, we would like to see the CSCE transformed into an institution of ongoing economic, social and political co-operation between the countries of East and West.

In these days of torrential change and telescoped time frames, stability and predictability in security arrangements are at a premium.

For 40 years, NATO has embodied the commitment of North America to European security. NATO, with its trans-Atlantic membership, has a central role to play in facilitating the orderly transition from armed confrontation to more normal and productive political and human relationships.

NATO's arms control agenda is being pursued with the same seriousness of purpose as has been applied to maintaining an appropriate military balance between East and West.

And NATO provides a basis for going beyond arms issues to verification and confidence-building.

Openness is a pre-condition of confidence and, therefore, of stability.

An agreement on Open Skies is in concert with these times; it will help to consolidate the dramatic improvement in relations between East and West that has occurred over the past year.

By opening our territories to virtually unrestricted surveillance by air, we will be showing the world that we have nothing to hide and less to fear.

In concluding this Open Skies agreement we will make a