

The CSCE was an unprecedented undertaking with the potential for changing the basic East-West relationship. But the degree to which the CSCE will be judged as an historic event will be determined by how its provisions are put into effect and by the willingness of all participating states to live up to the spirit of the agreement entered into.

The Final Act envisages three kinds of follow-up - unilateral, bilateral and multilateral, and as I said earlier, provides for a meeting at the senior official level in Belgrade in 1977 to review the progress being made and possibly to organize a resumed Conference.

In Canada we are meeting our responsibilities under the Final Act. Copies of the document have been widely circulated to the concerned government agencies and to the provinces as a guide for future action. All will have to consider what changes should be made in our present practices to conform with the political commitments we have accepted. In our bilateral relations we are referring to the document to see where its provisions can provide guidance on how these relations can most profitably be developed. In communiqués, agreements and treaties, the wording of the Final Act has proven to be extremely helpful, reflecting as it does the distilled views of the 35 participating states. Multilaterally, work is progressing satisfactorily in two existing United Nations bodies, the Economic Commission for Europe and UNESCO, to decide where and how to begin. The programmes envisaged by the Final Act are indeed so extensive and detailed that it is obvious that many kinds of multilateral action cannot even be started, much less completed, before the Belgrade meetings.

One of our commitments has been to publish the Final Act in Canada and to make it widely known. The press, in covering the Helsinki meeting, has done a great deal in this direction already. In addition, the Government has put on sale, at a very moderate price, copies of the Final Act. My Department has also been meeting requests for copies from a wide range of non-governmental bodies whose part in implementing the provisions of the Final Act will be essential. It is the Government's policy to ensure that the Final Act of Helsinki is implemented as soon and as completely as possible, and this process is already well under way.

I believe what I have said about the CSCE has indicated that the Conference was indeed worth the efforts of the participating States. While we in the West were flexible when appropriate, no positions of principle have been abandoned for the sake of an early end. The CSCE Final Act represents the will to peace of the people of 35 countries. It is part of a process which looks to the future, a future inevitably of change and adaptation. The challenge for us is to make the promise contained in the document real. The framework for co-operation has been set up. States now have to work within that framework to achieve progress. The year still remaining before the review meeting in 1977 will be a critical time during which the practicability of détente will continue to be tested. Canada intends to play its part in giving substance to détente, in making it matter for people in their day-to-day lives. We trust that the other participating States will join us in this endeavour.