

“Improving Confidence-Building Measures.”

October 24, 1977.

During the discussion in the general plenary debate on first-chapter issues, the special representative of my Foreign Minister mentioned — and I subsequently reiterated — that the Canadian delegation sees an important connection between the military and political provisions of the Final Act’s text — in the interests of decreasing mistrust and increasing confidence

Confidence, Mr. Chairman, is one of the underlying themes of the Final Act as a whole. We believe that confidence is not, unfortunately, an established state of affairs; it is rather an area needing development, and this is nowhere made more explicit than in the text on confidence-building measures. The need for further development was obviously recognized when the Final Act was drafted and signed, for that document specifically enjoins us to make further efforts to develop and enlarge the basic measures agreed to. We are convinced that *détente* as a whole cannot flourish without a vital and viable military dimension. In the context of the CSCE this means, pre-eminently, the application and evolution of confidence-building measures. Canada is pleased to have been able to participate with other states in notifying manoeuvres in which Canadian troops took part, and, again in concert with others, to have received observers and shown them our troops carrying out manoeuvres. We have also sent observers when invited, and, of course, received notifications from others.

To our mind, the viability and usefulness of the arrangements we have all subscribed to have been amply demonstrated. We have, however, noted that some states are more forthcoming than others and have pursued the more discretionary provisions of the Final Act rather than being content merely to comply with the bare minimum that is required. The task of developing these measures is therefore twofold: to bring about a consistent implementation among all 35 of us — which is not yet the case — and to refine and deepen our commitment.

In this task we must concentrate on the core of the subject — the threshold, the information given, the question of notifying military move-