



of all principles and provisions enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and to balanced progress in the CSCE process in all its aspects. The tenth anniversary of the Final Act in August 1985 should be commemorated by a meeting of the participating states at Ministerial level. We would like to see the anniversary marked by substantial progress in the CSCE process, including meaningful results at the important meeting on Human Rights in Ottawa. We also hope for a positive exchange of views at the Cultural Forum in Budapest in the Autumn.

9. We strongly condemn terrorism and will continue to work to eliminate this threat to our citizens and to the democratic values we hold in common.

10. In the spirit of Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty, we remain fully committed to promoting the stability and well-being of our community of free nations, sharing common values. We consequently reaffirm the importance of special programmes for less favoured partners.

11. The maintenance of a calm situation in and around Berlin, including unhindered traffic on all access routes, remains an essential element in East-West relations. We support the efforts of the Federal Republic of Germany to achieve progress in inner-German relations which can make a significant contribution to the building of confidence in Europe and benefit the German people, particularly the Berliners.

12. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, now in its sixth year, violates fundamental principles of international law. We urge the Soviet Union to put an end to the suffering of the Afghan people, by withdrawing its troops and agreeing to a political solution restoring the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan.

Events in Poland underscore the continuing need for genuine dialogue between the various elements of society and for national reconciliation.

We, for our part, respect the sovereignty and independence of all states. We will remain vigilant and will consult on events outside the Treaty area which might threaten our common security."

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain reserves his Government's position on the present communiqué.

## **Prime Minister's Statement Regarding the Strategic Defence Initiative**

*On September 7, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made the following statement regarding Canadian participation in the Strategic Defence Initiative.*

"On March 26 the United States invited Canada and other friendly countries to participate directly in research under the Strategic Defence Initiative. After careful and detailed consideration the Government of Canada has concluded that Canada's own policies and priorities do not warrant a government-to-government effort in support of SDI research. Although Canada does not intend to participate on a government-to-government basis on the SDI research program, private companies and institutions interested in

participating in the program will continue to be free to do so.

As stated in the House of Commons on January 21, 1985, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, this Government believes that SDI research by the United States is both consistent with the ABM Treaty and prudent in light of significant advances in Soviet research and deployment of the world's only existing ballistic missile defence system.

I conveyed this decision today to the President of the United States and informed him of this. I had discussed it, as you might imagine, with my caucus and my cabinet. And that is our position with regard to this particular item."

## **The Strategic Defence Initiative: Nielsen Letter**

*On September 7, the Prime Minister's Office released the text of a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, Erik Nielsen, to the US Secretary of Defence, Caspar Weinberger. The following is the text of that letter.*

"Dear Mr. Weinberger:

On March 26 you wrote to me extending to the Government of Canada and to other friendly governments an invitation to participate directly in research under the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

My colleagues and I have given this issue careful and detailed consideration. A Parliamentary Committee has conducted extensive public consultations across the country. Upon reflection, the Government of Canada has concluded that Canada's own policies and priorities do not warrant a government-to-government effort in support of SDI research.

In conveying this decision to you, there are a number of additional points I would like to make. We believe that the

extensive existing cooperation in defence research between our two countries is mutually beneficial and should be encouraged to grow. The Government is committed to further development of this cooperation and will continue to welcome further research arrangements with the United States, consistent always with Canada's national interest and its research and development priorities. Although Canada does not intend to participate on a government-to-government basis in the SDI research program, private companies and institutions interested in participating in the program will continue to be free to do so.

As Canada has previously stated, our Government believes that SDI research by the United States is both consistent with the ABM Treaty and prudent in light of significant advances in Soviet research and deployment of the world's only existing ballistic missile defence system.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you as we together address the vital security issues facing us.

Sincerely, Erik Nielsen"