

states — and for the nourishment of confidence between governments which direct their efforts in relation to totally different philosophies. This twofold importance of human rights — this emphasis on the individual as well as on the state — is recognized in the Final Act by all participating states. I cannot, however, emphasize too strongly the view of my Government that confidence and trust, to be built into relations between states, must be felt by individuals. It is thus incumbent upon all of us to reassure our citizens that, more and more, as *détente* progresses between and among us, it is not simply a matter of formal relationships between states; it is not an abstract and elegant diplomatic concept which has no concrete meaning for our citizens in their individuality as distinct from their collectivity. We come back in the end to the dimension of *détente* which involves the enhancement of the dignity of the individual, and the enlargement of the possibilities open to him.

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The test of a participating state's serious intention to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms lies not only in its adoption of legislation but in the practices its authorities follow, as well as its readiness to discuss any deficiencies in the scope of its human rights legislation or in the observance of its legislation. An unimpeded dialogue on human rights between the people and their government should be a primary concern of governments.

Governments should also be prepared to meet criticisms by other governments about deficiencies in human rights performance which are made seriously in the context of the provisions of the Final Act. Governments and systems of government are never perfect and changes, where these are required to improve the situation regarding human rights, should be considered normal and appropriate.