

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by expressing Canada's appreciation of the arrangements made by the United States to host this meeting, the first in the United States, another unmistakable demonstration of the trans-Atlantic nature of the CSCE.

The revolutionary events of the last year in Europe have many authors, some of them individuals in this room. A primary catalyst of these changes was this CSCE process, which achieved and enlarged commitments to rights by nations who previously had not acknowledged them; then provided constant and inescapable pressure to respect those commitments; and finally created a habit and example of nations working together to advance basic common values. That work is more important now than ever, because that respect for common values, that habit of working together, are essential as a strong new Europe, which truly honours the values affirmed in his Renaissance of Europe, is built by the efforts of all of us working together.

Our purpose in Paris - as it was 15 years ago in Helsinki - is to assert those values, as broadly and deeply as possible, in contemporary Europe.

The CSCE is not an end in itself, but the chosen instrument for building a strong new European order. This is the drawing board of the new European architecture.

We are here to help build a Europe which is a beacon and not a bulwark; a Europe which sees itself engaged in the wide world, and not apart from it. For forty-five years, the divisions in Europe spread tension and conflict throughout the world. Other regions, however much they benefitted from Europe's wealth or civilization, have also been infected by the tensions which divided East-West. The new Europe must be an example for others, not simply because it is prosperous and peaceful, but because common purpose here allows the world, at long last, to turn seriously to the other pressing problems confronting this planet.

A Europe which will work will not be static. It must be a Europe which grows as confidence grows, which evolves with our successes, which responds positively and actively to changes from within and from without. That is why the new CSCE should be different from previous efforts to construct order in Europe. Those efforts were static structures which did not grow. The CSCE we build must be a flexible organism, capable of growth and adaptation, and a structure which change strengthens and does not weaken.