

Some participating countries have rewarded with imprisonment, exile, and other forms of punishment, people whose only real crime seems to have been to have believed that we all meant what we said in 1975 when we pledged - and I quote from the Final Act - to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and when we further undertook to "confirm the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights and duties in this field". In some countries, thousands of people remain prevented by national policy or bureaucratic obduracy from having regular contact with members of their families in other countries, regular access to culture and information from outside, or, should they choose to do so, the opportunity to leave their country. And we cannot forget that one participating state has, over the past seven years, violated virtually all of the principles guiding relations between states by its continuing military intervention in Afghanistan.

For Vienna to be a step toward restoring confidence, and not accelerating its decline, we need to receive - and may I say, Mr. Chairman, we hope to receive - positive signs from these countries that, henceforward, the trend lines in observing these and other commitments, shall be steadily and visibly upward; and that real steps will be taken to honour them. For many Canadians, progress at Vienna, and their confidence in the CSCE process, will be primarily measured by the degree to which the contradiction between the actions of these countries, and their professed desire for détente, can be reconciled.

Progress in this area would be significant, and perhaps sufficient for us to regard Vienna as a success. But we would like, if possible, to go further, and to build on enhanced implementation by balanced progress in all areas covered by the Final Act.

We are very satisfied with the successful outcome of the Stockholm Conference. It is an important development in East-West relations and an event of considerable political and military significance for Europe. The agreed set of confidence-building measures represent a substantial improvement over that in the Helsinki Final Act. We are pleased to be able to say that we did our best to participate fully and constructively in facilitating the formation and adoption of the Stockholm Document. Our very ability to reach agreement inspires confidence.