

transition many CSCE countries are going through. There are few havens from unrest and tension. These manifest themselves in different ways. At one end, we have economic dislocation. At the other end, in an extreme form, we have bloody conflict. Yugoslavia and Nagorno-Karabakh are the obvious examples. We know there are others.

There are also more insidious sources of conflict -- the rise of racism, prejudice and xenophobia. No CSCE state is immune -- certainly not Canada. Nor is there any easy cure. But the CSCE does provide a political framework, complete with detailed commitments and institutional infrastructure, to help us deal with these issues.

We are entering an epochal phase wherein democracy, individual liberties and pluralism are the basic contract of our societies. The transition is not easy. The practices have to be learned. The old command mechanisms are gone. This organization's principal task is to provide the framework for tolerance, accommodation, peaceful settlement and development itself.

Our meeting must position the CSCE to deal effectively with these challenges to our security.

The CSCE must play its full role in conflict management. What does this mean?

Consolidating CSCE Institutions

First, we must fine tune our institutions. They have potential not yet realized. We do not need to create new institutions. We do need to make existing ones work better -- in terms of both their relationship to each other within the CSCE process and their relationship to other regional and international organizations.

The CSCE will co-operate with other European institutions, such as NATO, the European Community (EC) and the Council of Europe, in a complementary way drawing from the abilities of each. Because of its mandate and membership, the CSCE has the potential to be the principal agency of co-operative security in this framework of interlocking European institutions. But its practices need serious work.

The CSCE Council has to become a more active body for political consultation. I know I am not alone when I say that we must use our meetings more effectively. We need to focus our discussions.

We don't need to read these speeches to each other. We need to act to deal with the problems facing Europe. Our emergency meeting this morning on Nagorno-Karabakh was important. It underscored the position of the Council as the CSCE body for political action.