

## **“The Ten Principles — The Canadian Approach to Implementation.”**

October 10, 1977

. . . At this stage, I intend to deal in particular with those questions from the first chapter of the Final Act which, two years after its signing, appear to us to be the legitimate and necessary focus of attention in improving the implementation of that Act, and thus improving the climate of confidence and *détente* among participating states.

In so doing I shall necessarily have to be selective. This is in part because time does not permit comment on each principle in turn as well as upon all the other matters contained in the first chapter of the Final Act. It is also because public opinion in Canada focuses in different ways on the various provisions of the Final Act, owing to the particular concerns of Canadians and their special perception of what *détente* should entail, especially for the individual. However in general . . . Canadians see in these precepts a basis for the conduct of civilized relationships between states. Together the principles form an organic unity and a vital and flexible approach to the building of trust and confidence.

A number of speakers have already reminded us that within the body of the principles there are some which call for respect for certain ideals or refraining from certain types of behaviour, and others which call for positive action on the part of all participating states. Application of the principles as a whole, like that of the Final Act of which they are a part, has, of course, not been perfect — that would be asking too much in so short a time. On the whole, however, we are well satisfied that those commitments delineating actions not to be taken have been adequately respected since the Final Act was signed; sovereign equality has not, for example, been challenged nor have frontiers been assaulted.

It is perhaps more important to assess the measure of implementation achieved so far amongst what I might call the “dynamic” principles, in particular the Seventh, Ninth and Tenth Principles. These principles exemplify the dynamic possibilities of *détente* — the possibilities for movement and change — that is a common thread throughout the whole “declogue”. It is