

ada. The Final Act may have been signed only two years ago, but some of the problems with which it deals, such as family reunification, have been with us for many more years than that. Canadians thought the Final Act would at long last provide the impetus necessary to deal quickly with this problem. And so to some extent it did. But, to the extent it did not, public preoccupation in Canada continues. If governments, in the two years since the Final Act, have been unable to solve such a simple problem, people ask, how much hope is there that they will be able, even given a much longer span of time, to solve the many more difficult problems that the Final Act raises? This kind of scepticism should be a warning to us. Confidence is contagious, but so is want of confidence. If *détente* is to become permanent, we have to make confidence permanent, not just confidence between states but the confidence of our citizens that their governments were acting sensibly when they assumed the obligations of the Final Act. Seen in this light, even an apparently limited problem like family reunification can come to have a general significance if people choose to make it a test of *détente*.

The Canadian approach to the Final Act will continue to be positive. We attach importance to its provisions and to the principles it has formulated to guide relations between its signatories. But we also look beyond the Final Act to those broader issues bearing on a more-rationally ordered world that inevitably form part of the context in which the improvement of security and the development of co-operation among us must be situated. We do not see the Final Act as exhausting the responsibilities we have towards one another or to the world at large. If we are to meet those responsibilities, we must manage to overcome distrust and increase confidence between us. That is what the preamble of the Final Act enjoins us to do. If we can cross that threshold, we shall be closer to "solving the problems that separate" us and to "co-operating in the interest of mankind", to borrow the language of the Final Act.

We hope that the exchange of views on which we are about to embark will be objective and dispassionate, that it will help to clear away suspicions and misunderstandings, and that, above all, it will lay a solid basis for progress.

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