

regarding the founding principles of a new European peace order, and the role of the CSCE in that context.

Subsequently in 1992, at the Helsinki follow-up meeting, the steps taken in the framework of the CSCE process for the construction of what we call a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe, of which the Harmel report already spoke in 1967, could then be in 1992 solemnly confirmed.

An important part of the new European architecture will be a unified Germany. Each day it becomes clearer that the German unification will figure prominently on the summit agenda this year. The Netherlands welcome the prospect of a unified Germany.

We have for decades supported the right of the German people to regain its unity through the exercise of its right to self-determination. And forty years of experience with the Federal Republic of Germany, as a partner in European integration and Atlantic co-operation, give us full confidence that also a unified Germany will play its full role in shaping a new European peace order, as a member of the European Community and as a member of the North Atlantic Alliance.

Mr. Chairman, the negotiations on Open Skies form a part of a wider agenda which also encompasses the CFE and CSBM negotiations in Vienna. In my view, this conference offers a unique opportunity to all of us present here for giving a further impetus to these negotiations. I would not dare to go as far as to describe the ministerial part of our conference here in Ottawa as a Vienna plenary at ministerial level, but I am sure that all of us look forward to providing a political impulse to the Vienna negotiations. And, indeed, we should not fail to grasp the opportunity this conference offers us to help bring the CFE talks to a rapid, successful conclusion. Our publics expect nothing less because we ourselves have raised their expectations.

Recently the West has tabled five new proposals which, to my mind, can meet most of the concerns some countries may have had as to our previous proposals. By accepting the principle of conversion of helicopters, by excluding primary trainers, as well as accepting a separate category for interceptors in our aircraft definition, the West has made important and substantial concessions in our view -- concessions which, hopefully, will be reciprocated by the Warsaw Pact countries.

As to tanks and armoured combat vehicles, consensus over their definition and corresponding ceilings and sub-ceilings seem to be within reach now. And bridging our differences on zones and the concept of storage also seems to be feasible.

Concerning U.S. and Soviet stationed troops the positions seem to be getting nearer, although the Soviet Union has, as yet, not