

and other members of the Western group of countries would be included in recommendations acceptable to all. There was an expectation, however, that those participating states which have been least attentive to the letter and spirit of their Helsinki and Madrid commitments on human contacts would take the occasion of this meeting to signal at least their intention to show more flexibility in their existing controls and greater readiness to resolve outstanding humanitarian cases.

The initial omens admittedly were not good. My Delegation's efforts to use the occasion of this meeting to discuss specific humanitarian cases, on a bilateral and private basis, bore little fruit. Some delegations we approached refused even to discuss specific cases. Even after that disappointment, however, we still looked for a sign, in our discussions here, and finally in the negotiations, of some change of approach. We tried, day after day, to explain the concerns of Canadians about the problems of human contacts in the USSR and many countries of Eastern Europe, but received little or no response from those responsible. Furthermore, of the significant proposals put forward, most were firmly rejected by certain delegations, or would have been accepted only after major amendments undermining much of their purpose and effectiveness.

The disappointment of my Delegation, Mr. Chairman, is not, therefore, so much in our failure to produce a document; we have, after all, already produced strong documents in the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document. We do not really lack documents of standards of performance, Mr. Chairman; what we lack is compliance by certain signatory States. Our more profound disappointment stems from the fact that our bilateral talks, our formal discussions in our meetings, and, finally, our negotiations, have failed to reveal any new willingness by some States to make real, substantial headway in facilitating freer movement and contacts and the resolution of humanitarian cases.

Mr. Chairman, even if we have failed to reach agreed conclusions, my delegation takes satisfaction in the conduct and content of this meeting. We have examined frankly and thoroughly the nature of the obstacles to freer movement and contacts. For most of the delegations here there may be a clearer realization of the vital importance of the concept of the right to leave and return to one's country. If certain countries were to respect that right, that international undertaking, in the way that most CSCE signatory States do, then, in one stroke, most of the difficulties we have identified would be