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country, the influence of the two superpowers on the determination and success of the process cannot and should not be under-estimated.

• (1200)

As the optimist would have it, glasnost and perestroika made their way into the Vienna conference and with the change in attitude on behalf of the Soviet Union, subsequent conferences became a reality. We have seen some of the 11 conferences agreed upon take place, including those demanded by the Soviet Union on the human dimension in France in May 1989, in Copenhagen in June of this year, and we are now gearing up for the Paris summit of the heads of states and heads of governments of the participating countries on November 19, less than a week away.

The scope of the areas covered by the conference is truly astonishing. Therein lies the need for clear direction and clarification, not only of the future of the CSCE but of the future of other international bodies that have mandates to address specific areas that may either overlap or run parallel to the role that the conference has played in the past.

Historically, the conference was made up of three baskets. Basket one was made up of sovereignty, both territorial and internal affairs, the need for peaceful resolutions of disputes, the respect for human rights that include economic, cultural, social rights, fundamental principles of freedom, self-determination of peoples, and the integrity of frontiers and territory.

This expanded further with the co-operation of the members to include terrorism, religious freedom and capital punishment. This basket is also closely watched because it deals with confidence and security building measures. Disarmament, conventional and nuclear, will have to be dealt with within the framework of CSCE, although the hesitation is still real.

I would like to draw to the public's attention how other countries are now pointing fingers at Canada whether we ourselves are not violating basic human rights. Just Monday of this week I received a suicide note from Mr. Biedrzycki of Montreal, not my constituent but he was so frustrated that he sent me the suicide note. He wanted to jump off Jacques Cartier Bridge in Montreal. Why? He came from Poland as a refugee five years ago, he and

his wife. His uncle in Montreal is providing them with a home to live in. His uncle is providing him with employment.

Here is a couple, five years in Canada, ready to work and ready to provide jobs for other Canadians. What was he caught in? He was caught in the refugee backlog. Five years, Mr. Speaker. I ask, were not the rights of Mr. and Mrs. Biedrzycki violated in their own country? Is this what the CSCE would promote, that it takes five years to determine whether a person should stay in our country? The ironic part of this whole case is had he come to Ontario, he could have applied as a self-exiled refugee class and would have had his landed immigrant status at least three years ago.

Because he went through the refugee backlog, he is not allowed to stay in our country. He will be sent back to Poland in handcuffs, escorted by two security guards. This is the way we treat new Canadians coming to our country.

Where we Canadians always set an example for other countries in the human rights area, we now have this black mark because of that government bungling of the whole immigration refugee policy.

Let me take you on to basket two, Mr. Speaker, of economics, science, technology and the environment. This would seem to be the easier in terms of negotiating toward consensus.

It can be argued however, especially today, that as our very security is threatened by global economics and the state of the environment, were one to want to make real progress, that consensus will, as in the past, not come that easily.

The transfer and exchange of science and technology makes up a fundamental facet in the improvement of standards and conditions of living, and therefore are closely linked to economics and to the environment. I suspect a strong commitment, followed by substantive action, will be the minimum required to tackle this basket and to be taken seriously in doing it.

Basket three deals with human contacts: information, co-operation and cultural, educational exchanges. Canada has traditionally been very vocal in these areas, taking a special interest in unification of families and humanitarian gestures.