

The Basket III texts will be for Canada one of the main indicators of the progress of détente. If in the months to come states are guided in their policies by these formulations, détente will have achieved a human dimension that will lend substance and durability to the process of reducing international tensions and promoting understanding between people. As I said in New York, Canada is quite concerned about the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries living up to the provisions of the Helsinki accords on the reunification of families and the freer movement of peoples. That is a very deep preoccupation of Canadian policy and we will be following that up next year at Belgrade where we will be asking what performance has been forthcoming from the Soviet Union and others in that field.

What was the Canadian stake in the CSCE? How has Canada benefitted from the Conference and how can we expect to benefit in the future? Canada entered the negotiations with a short but definite shopping list of items that concerned us. We wanted to play a part in the Conference commensurate with our interests in Europe, and in this general aim we succeeded. We wanted formulations on the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes, but we did not want the CSCE to act as a peace conference and legally settle boundaries. We were also successful in this direction.

Canada had a particular concern as a country of immigration to support measures conducive to the freer movement of people and ideas. This hope has come to fruition as well, and worthy of special note in this regard is a strong text on the reunification of families that was sponsored by Canada.

Canada also favoured the development of a confidence-building measure involving advance notification of military manoeuvres, and after difficult negotiations such a confidence-building measure was worked out. Finally, Canada had important economic interests to safeguard and advance, and the Basket II texts have met our requirements in this respect.

The usefulness of the CSCE Final Act has already become evident. For example, the family reunification text provided a basis for the agreement to establish diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic. Texts in Baskets II and III are now being used in bilateral negotiations in such areas as consular agreements, economic agreements and discussions over double taxation. In the military sphere, Canada is participating in the prior notification of military manoeuvres being undertaken by NATO. The range of subjects opened up by the CSCE is so great in fact that comprehensive reviews are still underway in several government departments to determine how Canada should order its priorities.