

- 9 -

FOREIGN SECRETARY (CONT):

our view here and I gave him our view yesterday. I cannot speak for others.

QUESTION:

... the Warsaw Pact and the NATO Alliance on open skies is the question of uniformity in aircraft, could you give us an indication of how close you are to resolution of that issue and why the West is resistant to the uniformity of aircraft? Also, was there any discussion between you and other Foreign Ministers on Laos deployment, whether there is some alternative now being discussed for follow-on to Laos deployment?

FOREIGN SECRETARY:

So, we have not discussed the second point, there has been no re-opening of the comprehensive concept which, as you know, set out the procedures for discussing that. On the first point, I left the Plenary Session just as it was discussing that very question of aircraft types and agreed equipment for open skies. We believe that the whole point about open skies is that you are not afraid of technology. Of course the aircraft should be unarmed and you could have a list of things which were prohibited, prohibited equipment and so on. But the whole principle of it is that you are not afraid, you have not anything to hide and if that is so, then there is not really a need to specify types of aircraft or equipment because you are not saying: "I have got something that I need to conceal from advanced technology". You are saying it is open.