

Therefore, everything was ready for this fantastic acceleration in history. The magnitude, however, has surprised us all. Who would have said last summer that in the last few months of 1989 we would see the fall of the most shameful wall of history and that of the most abominable dictatorship in Europe after the war?

The movement will continue. Who can say whether we will still be 35 in the CSCE? The question is well worthwhile putting, and I believe that history very rapidly will supply the answer to this question.

So, in this period of hope and uncertainty, let us see to it that alliances remain the expression of free political association and not the reflection of bloc discipline which after all serves no longer any purpose.

Ministers, these questions concern the edification of a peaceful united Europe. These questions which affect our common future should be discussed at the highest, loftiest level. This is why France immediately endorsed the proposal for a summit meeting of the CSCE in 1990.

I am happy to see that this has been welcomed by a broad consensus. And I would like to remind you of what you all know, that we would be very happy to receive this summit in Paris.

So now we have to prepare for this major meeting and, in fact, our decision yesterday, which I am pleased with, goes along those lines.

First of all, I hope that this summit will be the crowning result of the Vienna Negotiation 23 on the reduction of conventional forces, and 35 on the implementation of confidence-building measures and security measures.

Indeed, we can say that the contents and the main thrust of the final document, of the Vienna document signed in 1989 and the results accomplished must be taken into account. We must give all this our attention because some countries with certain reticences are coming back to concepts that are only defended by the democratic countries. What appears to be acquired is well worthwhile of being solemnly ratified.

Over and beyond this, we must look in terms of a new security order based on the new political reality of Europe. The momentum in the field of disarmament should continue but in a coherent fashion, given the political developments in the old continent. In fact, things are so rapid now that a new framework and new objectives should be defined within the framework of a new mandate.