

systems of others, could seek common ground. It agreed upon a set of norms and principles which, if adhered to in their totality, formed a sound basis for the conduct of civilized relationships not only among governments, but also between governments and their own citizens. Finally, the CSCE provided an opportunity for all signatory states to contribute to efforts to relax tensions between East and West.

It was therefore possible, in 1975, to be hopeful without being unrealistic, and Canada was determined to make a constructive contribution to a process which held out the promise of a new and positive approach.

We have maintained that commitment, Mr. Chairman, but when the accomplishments of the past decade are measured against the potential which seemed to exist in 1975, Canadians feel disappointed and concern.

During the review of the implementation of the Final Act in Belgrade and in Madrid, it was clear that there had been very little progress in implementing the undertakings of 1975, and what is worse, that in most fields, there had been a slipping back.

Since then, the situation has become even less promising. Denial of self-determination to the people of one country began even before the Madrid Meeting opened. It continues today, and is intervention in the true meaning of the sixth principle, even if the victim is not a participating state, since we all agreed in 1975 to behave towards states outside the circle of the 35 in the same way we behave towards the states within it. We have seen the fear of intervention affect a participating state during the course of the Madrid meeting. Non-compliance on this scale inevitably corroded the hopes we shared in 1975 and threatened the credibility of the CSCE process.

Canadians have a deep and abiding concern about human rights. The situation in some countries is much worse than it was in 1975. Individuals who believed the assurance of their leaders that they had the right to know and to act upon their human rights have paid for their trust in prison, in labour camps and in exile. In the recent Human Rights Experts Meeting in Ottawa, we did not attempt to expand the human rights which should be assured to all individuals. There is little point in adding new undertakings when some states will not implement the rights which they have already agreed are inherent in the dignity of human beings.