

THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
(CSCE)

- . The CSCE is a system of conferences and agreements encompassing 33 European states (all except Albania) plus Canada and the United States. The basic document is the Helsinki Final Act (1975), which is not a treaty but a political commitment at the highest level.
- . The Final Act comprises three "Baskets".
 - Basket I deals with principles guiding relations between participating States (which includes Human Rights), and security questions including military confidence-building.
 - Basket II deals, inter alia, with commercial exchanges, industrial co-operation, science and technology, and environment.
 - Basket III deals with human contacts, information, culture and education.
- . Following Helsinki there have been "Follow-up Meetings" at Belgrade (1977-78) and Madrid (1980-83). The Madrid Concluding Document refined and elaborated on the Final Act. The Third Follow-Up Meeting opened in Vienna, November 4, 1986.
- . There have also been more specialized sub-conferences:
 - The Stockholm Conference (1984-86) agreed on confidence-building measures including advance notification and observation of major military activity;
 - There have also been "Experts" Meetings on Peaceful Settlement of Disputes (Athens, 1984); Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (Venice, 1984); Human Rights (Ottawa, 1985); The Cultural Forum (Budapest, 1985); and Human Contacts (Berne, 1986). Only the second of these produced substantial results. The last three did not reach agreement on a concluding document.
- . Canada has participated fully in the CSCE from the outset and is committed to the process. Our basic objectives are to enhance security and confidence, to break down barriers, and to facilitate the freer flow of information, ideas and people.