

“Human Contacts — Progress since Helsinki.”

October 13, 1977.

The text of the Final Act's chapter on co-operation in humanitarian and related fields reflects and embodies the conviction of the participating states that freer movement and contacts among people, as well as wider dissemination of and greater access to information and cultural achievements, will contribute to *détente* by increasing mutual knowledge among our people, thus reducing the suspicion and the tension bred of ignorance. The provisions of this chapter outline measures that our governments have agreed to undertake on the unilateral, bilateral and multilateral levels to translate this conviction into tangible results.

To dismantle barriers, to remove obstacles, we believe that this is one of the Final Act's essential messages. Our interpretation of this message will govern the position of my delegation when we examine the implementation of objectives to date, and when we identify the obstacles to carrying them out further and when we consider proposals aimed at overcoming these impediments.

It follows from this definition of the intentions expressed in the chapter on humanitarian and other questions that our discussions might be more coherent and positive if we kept uppermost in mind a few salient features of the text.

A key word repeated in many of its introductory passages, and in the chapter's substantive provisions as well, is “spirit”. To our mind this notion is neither vague nor abstract. Rather it is a guide to participating states to adopt a favourable attitude, a positive approach, towards implementing the measures they agreed upon when they signed the Final Act, and to establish standards of conduct which conform to the Final Act. The notion of “spirit” also reminds us that it was not intended that the carrying-out of our objectives would be static but rather a continuing process in which each government would seek new ways to improve implementation. It is difficult to imagine a state of affairs in which we could all say, with satisfaction, that all provisions of the Final Act had been fully implemented and that we could rest on our