

and the effort to map out a broad range of cooperative relationships. To have been unable to record common views on these matters here in Belgrade is in itself a commentary on how little any of us can take détente for granted.

The Canadian government, for its part, remains firmly attached to the policy of détente. But détente, by definition, is a two-way street. It will not exist simply because we say to ourselves that it must. If we want it to be a reality, we must make it a reality. The lesson of Belgrade must not go unlearned. But we must be sure that we understand what it is. That we have not succeeded in putting words on paper is unfortunate. But it is not the heart of the matter. The heart of the matter is that commitments freely undertaken at Helsinki are carried out in practice. For that we should not need verbal reminders. The language of the Final Act is clear. We did not come here to alter it, and its provisions remain an indispensable yardstick against which performance will be measured. At Madrid we shall have a clearer picture of where we stand. It will then be five years from the signature of the Final Act. Public opinion in our countries is not likely to grant us much of a further reprieve if we are not seen by them to have pursued the course we charted together at Helsinki with a greater sense of commitment and with greater imagination. Belgrade and Madrid may be important milestones on that course. But the real test of the CSCE lies in the commitment we are prepared to give to its continuity, and in whether concrete adjustments will be made in our national policies. We should not look to a miracle at Madrid to relieve us of the responsibilities of proper performance between now and then.

Some undoubtedly feel frustrated and disappointed in the concrete achievements to date.

I would ask them whether, a decade ago, they would have even envisaged that meetings such as this would ever have taken place.

Can anyone have doubts as to the value of nations of differing ideologies sitting down together and freely and frankly discussing their mutual concerns?

It is a significant and positive step forward. As long as this process of dialogue continues, we need not be discouraged.