

conventional armed forces in Europe.

Such an agreement will open a new era in the history of arms control. It will achieve this goal by providing full and equal security to all participating states. Greece, as a small country, must also insist on the obvious fact that no country, however small, should see her security diminished as a result of this treaty.

In today's rapidly changing environment, the security of Europe does not depend only on the balance of forces between the two alliances. It increasingly depends on maintaining regional equilibrium.

The reduction of conventional forces in Europe, welcome as it is, should not be allowed to upset such regional balances because the result could be increased instability in the region concerned and ultimately in the whole of Europe.

Mr. Chairman, while reviewing the negotiations in the conventional forces in Europe, one is struck by the extent of the results achieved so far. It is remarkable that negotiations of so great importance and complexity conducted between 23 sovereign states have progressed so rapidly. However, there is still much to be done.

Therefore, Greece is fully convinced of the need to give a strong political impulse, as again was clearly stated last night, to these negotiations.

Our meeting here is designed to give them precisely such an impact. For the same reason, we support the idea of convening a ministerial meeting of the 23 participating countries during this spring in Vienna.

Finally, I would like to point out that the agreement to be signed this year will only be the link in a long process which will aim at the balance of forces at much lower levels. These new negotiations should begin immediately after the first accord is concluded.

Mr. President, before concluding, I would like to confirm to you the good will of Greece, who will provide all its efforts in order to put its input international development and to ensure that this next era is one of openness and will ensure rights and peace.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate, once again, on the part of the Hellenic delegation, and send to you our warmest thanks, our gratitude to the Government of Canada, as well as to you yourself, for your very generous hospitality and the excellent manner in which you have organized this meeting.
Thank you.