

"Helsinki process" thrives

tives will be accomplished by reducing administrative requirements and arbitrariness, and expanding travel opportunities. Specifically aimed at meeting these targets, the Vienna Meeting obliges members to publish by January 1990 all laws and statutory regulations concerning movement by individuals within their territory and travel between States."

In the field of information and culture, the Vienna Meeting called upon participating states to expand the dissemination of information "of all kinds" and, as was done in the original Helsinki Accords, to improve the working conditions of journalists. It is apparent that the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union in terms of openness have directly benefited foreigners. Not surprisingly the entire area of cultural cooperation and exchange is expanding. Warmer East-West relations have also had a very positive effect on the increased number of educational exchanges which are emphasized in the concluding Document. The London Information Forum held from April 18 to May 12, 1989, was notable for its openness. For the first time ever, a CSCE meeting was convened with all plenary sessions open. Previous experiences had seen a limited number of open sessions. The London Information Forum was the first meeting mandated by the Vienna Follow-Up Conference to take place. It will be important to gauge the success of this and future meetings in the positive post-Vienna atmosphere.

Security and cooperation in the Mediterranean

The final three sections of the Vienna Concluding Document, although short, represent a significant part of the future of the CSCE. Questions Relating to Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean has always been the forgotten Basket Four. As a result of the need for consensus, Malta can extract a fairly high price for an agreement and the CSCE getting involved in Mediterranean security is the result. In the discussions conducted on the Mediterranean, there are invitations issued to non-participating Mediterranean states. These non-member states — Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia — represent a significant number of Middle East countries. Thus, although not comprehensive, the CSCE talks on the Mediterranean provide another forum where increments of progress in that troubled area are possible.

Human Dimension of the CSCE

The Human Dimension of the CSCE is a new term coined in the Vienna Concluding Document. It is defined as "the undertaking entered into in the Final Act and in other CSCE documents concerning respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, human contacts and other issues of a related humanitarian character." Thus, the CSCE has evolved past "Basket Three" into the broad and all encompassing "human dimension." In expanding, the CSCE participating states have called for a greater exchange of information among states as a result of requests made by participating states on questions relating to the human dimension. As well, there will be increased bilateral meetings "in

order to examine questions relating to the human dimension of the CSCE, including situations and specific cases, with a view to resolving them."

The results of both of these initiatives will be examined by all participants at three meetings dealing with the human dimension. These will take place over the next three years in Paris, Copenhagen and Moscow. This is a victory for both East and West. From the beginning, the Soviets pushed for convening a "human rights" meeting in Moscow. The West recoiled at this, opposing it as a propaganda ploy. Ground shifted both in the Vienna negotiations, but more importantly internationally, where such a proposal was no longer viewed as unreasonable. The West, however, must also be pleased with the formal recognition and obvious elevation of the human dimension by the Soviets (and presumably giving congressman Dennis DeConcini some satisfaction as well).

A final point on this matter is appended to the Vienna Concluding Document and is clearly aimed at the hosting of the Moscow Conference. It is a Chairman's Statement "On the Openness and Access to the CSCE Follow-Up Meetings." It re-emphasizes the need for access and openness for the media, non-governmental organizations, religious groups and private individuals. The Statement emphasizes the "positive way" that this has evolved in the Helsinki process and calls for its continuation. It can only be hoped that in the future, calls for greater openness and access to CSCE meetings and materials will also be recognized by our own government. It is essential that all proposals be accessible after the negotiations are concluded.

Follow-up to the Conference

The final section of the document provides for the continuation of the Helsinki Process. The "institution" of the CSCE has proved durable and will begin a new cycle as the mandate has been extended to another follow-up meeting in March 1992 at Helsinki, Finland. At that time, it will be nearly twenty years since the original meetings that culminated with the Helsinki Final Act in August 1975. Through five US Presidents and, more importantly, through four Communist Party of the Soviet Union General Secretaries, the Helsinki process has evolved to become a stable factor in both European politics and East-West relations.

Canada's welcome contributions to the CSCE should not be forgotten or ignored by those who seek to expand Canada's international role. The CSCE is an important venue for Canada to be involved in European security questions. We must continue and we must increase our activism through non-governmental organizations, interest groups and individual Canadian citizens. Canada's opportunities remain opened in the field of diplomacy, peace and disarmament. The Helsinki process has proved to be a durable model that could benefit other regions of the world. And so, despite the new lease on life given to the CSCE by the successful Vienna Follow-Up Meeting, it would appear that Canadians may be left behind for lack of information. This need not be the case, if only the Canadian government would fulfill all of its Helsinki obligations. □