

-- ensure that applications for travel for visits or reunification with a family member who has left a country are not prejudiced by the circumstances of that family member's departure, for example where he has left without official permission.

The proposal was co-sponsored by the delegations of the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as those of Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain. It is based on proposals previously submitted in April 1986 to the CSCE Meeting of Experts on Human Contacts held in Berne, Switzerland.

In introducing the second Canadian proposal on February 18, Mr. Bauer told delegates that the proposal "is an encouragement to participating states to remove obstacles which have been placed in the way of personal or professional contacts between members of national minorities or regional cultures. The lack of contact in some countries by persons belonging to national minorities, or other ethnic or linguistic communities, with persons in other countries sharing the same language and culture is a matter of growing concern in my country." The proposal is co-sponsored by the delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey and the United States of America.