

collectively to examine our short-comings; to find remedies for them; and to build in a constructive way upon our experience.

Mr. Chairman, the position of the Canadian Delegation in this general debate begins with the Final Act. We must conduct a careful and objective review of the current implementation of the Act and emphasize respect for its principles. We can meet the intent of the Act only by judging and improving the quality of our performance and, then, by devising new proposals aimed at broadening our commitments.

Moreover, the Final Act is an institutional expression of a policy designed to reduce tensions and to increase co-operation in Europe. It therefore provides us with guidance for assessing the state of East-West relations, another of our tasks here in Madrid.

On this point I must note that the Madrid meeting has taken on a much greater importance than could have been foreseen when it was scheduled several years ago. The deterioration in East-West relations, culminating last December in the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, cannot be ignored in this forum. No matter how the intervention is perceived, the international environment has been severely damaged as has the confidence which so crucially underpins the policy of détente. We cannot view the Afghan crisis as a purely local or regional issue, or one that falls outside the East-West purview.

At a minimum, Soviet actions have challenged directly the principles in the Final Act of sovereign equality, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, the territorial integrity of states, non-intervention in internal affairs and equal rights and self-determination of peoples. Yet under the Act, the participating states expressed their conviction of the need to make détente a comprehensive process, universal in scope. They determined to refrain from the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. They declared their intention to conduct their relations with all other states in the spirit of the principles of the Final Act. They expressed their common will to act, in the application of those principles, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.