

left to do before we meet in Vienna. Let us hope that when we meet again there will be more of a *positive and hopeful nature to discuss.*

The Helsinki Final Act of 1975 reaffirmed the objectives of all participating states: to promote better relations among themselves and to ensure conditions in which their people could live in true and lasting peace, free from any threat to or attempt against their security.

Is this undertaking merely a hollow slogan, to be ignored at will by governments in their day to day decisions? I think not. The stakes today are simply too high for our governments to ignore this undertaking. We face in our time the constant threat that small-scale, regional or local conflicts could escalate to the horrific spectre of nuclear confrontation unless all available, however small, steps are being taken to reduce mistrust and promote co-operation among states.

But if individuals faced with the threat of state-to-state confrontation cannot live in security, neither can they live in real peace if their fundamental human rights are denied them by their governmental authorities or other citizens by their own governments.

In this context I am convinced that the CSCE process can play a role in improving relations among our states in both respects: to ensure that our people can live free from the threat of war, and free from arbitrary authority.

What has Canada done, what does it intend to do in this respect? The achievement of greater stability and greater security in Europe has been Canada's prime objective at the Madrid meeting for these past three years. At times this objective appeared more distant hope than realistic possibility. Yet, the opportunity for dialogue over critical East-West issues which the unique CSCE process offers is one which must be taken most seriously.

It is only through reasoned dialogue and debate that the participating states can arrive at acceptable solutions to the problems and tensions which beset Europe. The CSCE process provides a basis — the Final Act — to set out the common values and interests which are aimed at increasing security and co-operation in Europe. It provides a forum — the review meetings — to evaluate the degree to which participating states live up to their obligations under the Final Act. It provides a method — the concluding documents of these review meetings — for enhancing the collective undertakings of the participating states beyond those of the Final Act. Taken together, these instruments constitute the solid framework of a new European political process aimed at the future — one which is inherently dynamic and outward-looking, molding itself to changes in international relationships and indeed contributing to a shaping of these relationships. It is process which encourages co-operation over confrontation, debate over diktat, negotiation and compromise over isolation and absolutes.

How profound is the sense of suspicion and how brutal its consequences can be have been tragically demonstrated in another part of the world. The corrosive effects of that distrust know no barriers. In the 1930s, a distinguished Soviet Foreign Minister, Maxim Litvinov, reminded the world that peace is indivisible. So too, I submit, is the sense of trust and confidence on which peace rests.

My government hopes, indeed pleads, that this forum we have made for ourselves in the CSCE may dedicate itself in the years ahead to the patient building of confidence and trust without which no true security can exist.

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