

THERE IS A FREE AND CONTINUAL INTERCHANGE OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE BETWEEN CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND MOST COUNTRIES OF EUROPE; THIS IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT TO OUR ECONOMIES, BUT ALSO ESSENTIAL TO OUR CULTURAL SUSTENANCE AND THE RETENTION AND GROWTH OF FAMILY TIES AND PERSONAL FRIENDSHIPS. THIS FREE AND UNFETTERED MOBILITY IS A POSITIVE FORCE FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND THEREFORE FOR PEACE; IT CONTRIBUTES IN A VERY REAL WAY TO THE REALIZATION OF THE GOALS OF THE CSCE. FOR THIS REASON, WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE AT THIS MEETING TO FIND WAYS OF EXPANDING THIS WORLD OF PERSONAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS TO THOSE PARTS OF EUROPE AND TO THOSE PEOPLE WHICH UNTIL NOW, TO A GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE, HAVE BEEN DENIED THEIR BENEFITS.

THIS IS NO SMALL PROBLEM, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR IT AFFECTS LARGE NUMBERS OF OUR CITIZENS AND HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS IN MORE THAN ONE DIMENSION OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

I SHOULD LIKE FIRST OF ALL TO TOUCH ON THE MOST BASIC DIMENSION -- THE PERSONAL AND HUMANITARIAN ONE. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT SOME CANADIAN FAMILIES FROM EASTERN EUROPE HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN CANADA SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY, AND MAY THEREFORE HAVE FEW IMMEDIATE FAMILY CONTACTS IN THEIR HOMELANDS, THEY DO RETAIN CLOSE INTEREST IN CULTURAL TIES. IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT TODAY, OUT OF A CANADIAN POPULATION OF 25 MILLION, NEARLY ONE MILLION CANADIANS HAVE A LANGUAGE OF EASTERN EUROPE OR THE SOVIET UNION AS THEIR MOTHER TONGUE, THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE. IT IS FOR THESE PEOPLE, PERHAPS, THAT THE PROBLEM IS  MOST ACUTE -- MOST DEEPLY, DIRECTLY