

But that discussion is still to come.

For the moment let me impress on this gathering the sense of urgency which must attach to our work.

The presence here this week of so many Foreign Ministers underlines the importance which participating states attach to this conference and to the opportunity which it offers for a new beginning in East-West relations. But, if this conference is to fulfill our expectations, we as Foreign Ministers cannot confine our involvement in it to being present at its launching. We must undertake to keep the progress of the conference under close review, so that we are prepared to intervene at the political level whenever this may appear necessary to ensure forward movement. The construction of an edifice of mutually reinforcing military and political confidence is an urgent necessity and one which will require the constant application of political will.

Let us, as Ministers, commit ourselves here and now to investing this enterprise with a sense of political direction and urgency, and if it proves desirable for us to return to this forum to re-inspire and maintain that momentum, is there any among us who would not come back, who would assign a higher priority to other engagements?

Let us begin to negotiate.

Let us concentrate on the realistic goals defined by the mandate for this conference of confidence-building - and not on the enormity of some of the gaps that must ultimately be faced in our search for a less dangerous world.

A less dangerous world: I am convinced that that is what we all want - regardless of our political system, our geographical size, our armed might.

We are all in this together, superpower and mini-state. We move forward together, or we sink back into greater and greater danger.

I come back again and again to the urgency of our confidence-building task.

Never have imagination and determination been more urgently called for.

The Government of Canada commits itself now, as it has done in the past, to responding unstintingly to this challenge.

As we strike out along this new path, this road that begins in Stockholm, we declare solemnly that we will spare no effort in our common search for peace - and for the sense of confidence that underpins security.

Let us see whether we can, together, build confidence and restore a civilized political dialogue between us.