

Our efforts have now been rewarded with success. The Vienna Concluding Document is a welcome milestone in East/West relations and in the evolution of Europe. It reflects and builds on recent changes. It makes significant strides in all the areas covered by the Helsinki Final Act. Canada is proud to have played a role in formulating some of its key elements.

When the Vienna Meeting opened, we had just succeeded in the Stockholm Conference in establishing a set of confidence- and security-building measures that carried considerable political and military significance. But what we did not know then was how these measures would work in practice. Since 1986, we have seen gratifying progress in adherence to both the letter and the spirit of Stockholm. We now have the confidence to believe that we can further increase transparency and predictability in military affairs. We wholeheartedly support the establishment of negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures to build upon the work of the Stockholm Conference.

We now also have the confidence to embark on ambitious negotiations touching on conventional armed forces themselves. These negotiations will take place within the framework of the CSCE process, but will be autonomous -- a condition we regard as vitally necessary for their efficiency. They will not be easy. Success will depend at all stages on frankness and trust, which in turn depend, in some measure, on developments outside the arms control arena.

We wish these negotiations success. Canada will play its full role. We will be second to none in seeking imaginative solutions to complex problems.

I should not leave this subject without referring briefly to a negotiation which will conclude before the commencement of the new negotiation on conventional arms control. The Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions talks were a pioneering attempt to arrive at conventional arms control measures in a crucial area of Europe. Much of what has been learned from the successes and failures during the many years of these talks will prove useful in the new negotiations.

Other specific elements of this Concluding Document are very important to Canada. We have achieved firm commitments that will improve the conditions under which business people and entrepreneurs can perform their central role in economic cooperation. We have sharpened our commitment to promote contacts between business people and potential buyers and end users, and to publish useful, detailed, and up-to-date economic information and statistics. These measures will expand the economic dimension of our cooperation and growing