

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I should like to thank the Government and the people of Finland for the friendly welcome they have given us in this lovely city, and for the warmth and generosity of their hospitality. I also join my colleagues in expressing to the Executive Secretary, Mr. Palosuo, and his staff, our gratitude for the skill and efficiency they have displayed in the organization of this meeting.

Ten years ago, the signature of the Final Act evoked a wide range of reactions. Some believed that the hostility and uncertainty which had marked East-West relations for so long would quickly melt away under the bright sun of détente. Others viewed the Final Act as a hortatory set of principles which would be ignored and soon forgotten. Most of us, however, viewed the Final Act with both hope and realism. Certainly Canada did.

Hope was essential: Canada has deep roots in Europe; our historical origins are in Europe; and we have shared both the profound benefits of Europe's political and social ideals and the tragic costs of Europe's wars. Experience had shown that even longstanding divisions could be healed, or at least managed peaceably. We wanted to nurture the hope that solutions could be found to those divisions which still threatened the peace and security of the family of Europe, wherever we might live.

Hope, however, was tempered by realism. The tortuous negotiations which had led to the Final Act made it painfully clear that distrust and hostility were very deeply rooted and that productive dialogue would take time, patience and, above all, commitment.

The Final Act, nevertheless, represented a beginning. A balanced product of compromise, it seemed to express a common determination among the participating states that desire for understanding and cooperation prevail over sterile confrontation. The CSCE had established itself as a multilateral forum in which participating states, without seeking to threaten the