

Republic is doing all in its power to preserve the anti-fascist traditions of our people. Now what is most imperative are major, rapid and serious disarmament moves. Disarmament and arms control must not lag behind the dynamics of the political process in Europe.

The initiative on the part of President Bush to agree on a Open Skies regime, and so commendably taken up by the Canadian government, has, therefore, come as a very timely move. I would like incidentally to thank the Canadian government for this invitation to the Conference. I would like to thank the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Clark, for the excellent working conditions provided.

Openness with regard to military potential and activities is, in our view, a hallmark, an important hallmark, of the emerging new type of international security. Exercised by both sides, it will replace mistrust and hostility by trust and co-operation. Consequently, consent to the Open Skies regime is a criterion of the seriousness of statements on openness and verification.

Situated at the boundary between the two alliances, and being a country of transit and tourism with air corridors of three of the allies and an international air route in its skies, and an allied military mission on its territory, the German Democratic Republic, whether it likes it not, is, and intends to remain, a transparent country.

Having agreed early on to the conference project of an Open Skies regime, the German Democratic Republic expects a number of things to be accomplished. It is of utmost importance that all states participate on the basis of sovereignty and equal rights. This makes it necessary to ensure, in the first place, that each of them will have equivalent possibilities and capabilities for data collection.

COCOM-like restrictions, in this context, would run counter to the envisaged goal of mutual confidence building. A co-operative approach should also be adopted with regard to the use of observation results.

An Open Skies regime, irrespective of its value, per se, should be based on the promotion of genuine disarmament measures and should facilitate verification of compliance with respective agreements.

Certainly no one can harbour illusions as to the multitude of problems as yet to be solved. Nevertheless, what we want is to have this instrument of mutual confidence building and verification at our disposal soon, all the more so since the negotiation on conventional armed forces in Europe is nearing its final stage, so duplication of verification efforts could be avoided.