

relative in the middle of an Ottawa winter, even a mild Ottawa winter, but there is no doubt that this meeting represents a global warming of a different and a wholly welcome kind.

President Eisenhower launched the idea of Open Skies 35 years ago during the Cold War. Then it seemed bold, imaginative, unrealizable; today it is still imaginative, desirable and about to happen.

An Open skies agreement will mean saying to each other: You do not have to believe it when we say our military dispositions are entirely defensive. Come and look for yourself; we have nothing to hide.

Certainly there are still technical problems to be resolved. We shall, for example, need to ensure that the quota system gives each country the chance to play an active part; that the system is compatible with the one which we will apply in CFE; and that it can be extended to other European countries who also want to take part. But it is clear from what has already been said, from the work which has already been done, that the will to reach agreement is there.

Open Skies, Mr. Chairman, is just one aspect of a scene which has been transformed since the proposal was put forward by President Bush last May. And you have encouraged us during this conference to widen the scope of discussion to cover larger aspects of that same scene.

As has already been said by Jim Baker, 1989 was a year of revolutions, new faces in each country, new voices, new constitutions, but a common theme.

For years at Helsinki we worked to establish with great difficulty a charter of basic human rights for Europe. At the time it was an ambition which was worth stating but which seemed, like Open Skies, far from reality. Now reality has arrived.

The peoples of eastern Europe demanded of their governments only the implementation of the principles which those governments had already agreed at Helsinki.

It is perhaps significant that the one country of eastern Europe where change could, alas, only be brought about with bloodshed was the one country which had not signed the final document of the Helsinki process last year; the one government which was not prepared to concede even the principle of basic human rights to its citizens. We are delighted to see that country, Romania, represented here today in a completely different style.

Now, as was inevitable, we enter a period of change so rapid that it brings with it some fears of instability. But I believe