

In our enthusiasm for what has been accomplished, we cannot ignore the existence of ongoing problems: the mistreatment of minorities in some countries; or the continuing existence of refuseniks in the Soviet Union - people who continue, inexplicably, to be denied the right to leave their country. These problems may appear to be less severe than in the past. But they stand out in marked contrast to progress elsewhere and the new standards to which we all aspire.

Mr. Chairman, I must note in this connection the situation in the Baltic States. The CSCE process - indeed the evolution of a new Europe itself - depends on a shared understanding of the rights and obligations of governments. Challenges to that understanding can damage the fabric of co-operation and progress we are now building in Europe. The situation in Lithuania cannot be allowed to damage this fabric. The aspirations of the Baltic peoples and the interests of all members of the CSCE can only be satisfied through negotiation. There is no acceptable alternative to this path.

As we build a brighter European future, a future founded on freedom, a future which promises prosperity, we have an enormous challenge before us. But we have the tools and, more importantly, the will and spirit to accomplish great deeds. We have before us the capacity to make Europe anew, to render universal what has been partial, and to make permanent what we so recently have come to share. In this task, Canada is eager to assume its full responsibilities as a member of the commonwealth of Europe. And we approach this task gladly - with enthusiasm, determination and abiding hope.