

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

Canada has been a strong supporter of the CSCE since its inception. This support has its roots in the years prior to the beginning of the CSCE when Canada played an active role in the negotiations leading to its development. Canadian involvement at that time reflected a desire to ensure that Canada would be included in the new forum, thus further institutionalizing its link with Europe. Current strong Canadian support for the CSCE process continues to reflect both a strong Canadian belief in the value of the CSCE and a desire to ensure ongoing Canadian connections to Europe at a time when Europe and the CSCE are undergoing significant changes.

In the time since the transformation of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union began, Canada has been active in proposing and developing ideas for strengthening and changing the CSCE institutional framework. Canada was particularly supportive of the Conflict Prevention Centre and the idea of creating an Assembly of Europe and Canada has continued to press for a strengthening of the Conflict Prevention Centre.

Speaking to a CSCE meeting on the human dimension held in Moscow in September 1991, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mrs. Barbara McDougall, reiterated the need to develop arrangements to address causes of instability and conflict. She pointed to the unique nature of the CSCE as the only forum carrying the weight of the entire Euro-Atlantic community and called on the CSCE to use this potential to empower CSCE institutions to act effectively when security is threatened.³

In speaking to the Council of Ministers at the end of January 1992, Mrs. McDougall outlined Canada's priorities which comprised a need to focus on implementing human rights standards, especially as a method of conflict prevention, the need to create viable pluralist democracies as a way of building security, dealing with the threat posed by mass migrations within Europe, and the need to effectively address the problems of arms transfers and nuclear proliferation.⁴

At the opening of the review conference in Helsinki Mrs. McDougall detailed Canada's approach on the issue of strengthening CSCE institutions for conflict management. She said that there was a need to fine

³ Secretary of State for External Affairs. "Speaking Notes of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, to the CSCE Meeting on Human Dimension," *Statement*, 91/38, 10 September 1991.

⁴ Secretary of State for External Affairs. "Notes for an Address by the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe," *Statement*, 92/3, 30 January 1992.