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wide differences and the misunderstandings which trouble relations between East and West. The terms of reference for the meeting are not so clear nor detailed as we would have liked; nevertheless, we have concluded that the participants will want to discuss fully and with sincerity the human rights practices in other participating states as well as in their own. It is necessary to further the dialogue and commentary on human rights in other participating states if we hope to induce them to conform to international law and their commitments under the Final Act. We look forward to welcoming to Ottawa, the participants in this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, I have outlined briefly the most positive elements in the draft concluding document. They hold out the hope of decreasing mutual suspicion and increasing security by fostering the transparency of military operations on the part of both East and West. They hold out the hope of enhanced co-operation through the expansion of economic, scientific and cultural contacts between East and West. They hold out the hope to individuals that they may once again be reunited with their families. They hold out the hope to individuals that their rights and liberties, their fundamental dignity as individuals, will be respected by their own governments. They hold out the hope of a renewed vigour and progress in human relations as an increasingly important aspect of the dialogue between and among our governments.

My government will commit itself to abide by the obligations set out in the Madrid Document, just as it has abided by the undertaking it agreed to in Helsinki. We will do everything in our power to turn these new hopes into concrete realities. We expect all other participating states to do the same. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that Canada will not remain silent in the face of violations of these commitments, violations which serve only to undermine the credibility of the entire CSCE process. But I want to reiterate that to turn the hopes embodied in the Final Act and now the Madrid Document into realities requires the concerted effort of all the participating states.

We must recognize that relations between East and West have deteriorated since those bright days of hope in Helsinki in 1975. It now becomes of even more importance that we reverse this trend. The participating states have not taken full advantage, it seems to us, of the opportunities for expanded contacts, dialogue, and co-operation, which were opened up by the Helsinki Final Act. It is in the clear self-interest of each and every participating state here to seize the opportunities for co-operation which are presented by an agreement now in Madrid, and to take up the challenges which will be presented by the Conference on Disarmament in Europe and other meetings over the next several years.

It has often been said that the course of this Madrid review meeting has been heavily influenced by the events occurring outside it. This is true. How could it be different? Any political forum which is to have any relevance whatsoever in contributing to the resolution of political conflict must always reflect its surrounding political reality, good or bad. But it is also true that to be effective, to be credible, a political forum such as the CSCE must be able to influence those same external events. International events are not predetermined by some capricious Fortuna; they are man-made. We can make a new forward step here in Madrid by expressing our firm resolution to improve upon the record of the past and to adopt a document with engagements which, if treated in good faith, would hold out for the people of all our countries the prospects of enhanced security and understanding. There is still much