

Detailed  
Specific  
Serious  
Urgent

Let us not waste time belabouring each other with the many unresolved grievances we can all list and recite without much trouble.

Of course these issues exist and of course they must be recognized and dealt with.

But are we prepared to allow them to obscure the possibilities for progress inherent in the mandate we have given ourselves for the endeavour on which we are embarking?

I hope not, and I know that my hope is shared by millions of people around the world.

We have come here to negotiate, to present and discuss propositions.

And to reach agreement on specific measures which will contribute to confidence, stability and security.

We, in the group of nations referred to as the West, have our conception of the type of measure on which we can build. We will present a package of ideas which, if accepted, would be a long step forward, creating a new basis on which to approach arms reduction.

We will propose measures which envisage more openness about basic military information, earlier notice of a wider range of military activities, mandatory rather than voluntary exchanges of observers at important military activities and ways to verify any agreements reached. These measures would promote assurance that the routine military activities of other participants in Europe are not threatening and would make unusual preparation for hostilities more difficult to conceal. They will also treat a practical problem which arises from the present limited mutual confidence: that is, how to deal with emergencies or accidents which could spark crises in Europe.

We have every expectation that others at this conference, individually and collectively, will bring forward their own ideas.

I am sure that some will be more interesting than others.

I am sure that we will be urged to consider measures that would be more declaratory than specific - and I am equally sure that we will, all of us, be vigilant about ideas that, by suggesting slick and easy and apparent solutions to agonizingly difficult problems, could lead us into a false and dangerous sense of security.