

maximum. Certain aspects of our economic relationship may not fall neatly within the ambit of one or other of these institutions and it may prove necessary to revitalize other organizations already in possession of a great deal of relevant experience to fill the gaps. I have in mind in particular the Economic Commission for Europe. Canada is seeking full membership so that we may play our full part in any tasks the conference may consider appropriate for that body.

I now turn to an area in which Canada expressed particular interest at the preparatory talks -- that of co-operation in expanding contacts between people and in solving humanitarian problems. Without improvement in human contacts, and relations of all kinds, the work that we shall do here and in Geneva will have limited practical effect and little meaning for our peoples. More normal relations and expanded co-operation should involve not only governments and official bodies but should also extend to the level of person-to-person contacts.

We in Canada believe, and we think it reflects the views of humanity as a whole, that members of families should not remain unwillingly separated because they reside in different states and that citizens of different countries should be able freely to marry and join their spouses. While we recognize that specific cases must of necessity be dealt with on a bilateral basis, the enunciation of principles and the adoption of concrete measures on divided families and like problems would, we believe, substantially improve inter-state relations.

Canada attaches the highest importance to this question of freer movement, not only because of the composition of the Canadian population but also because we believe that progress depends more on putting these principles into effect than on repeating accepted norms. This question is, in many ways, the touch-stone of the success of the conference. If we can achieve gradual but meaningful progress in removing barriers to the movement of persons and information, we will be well on the way to achieving our goals -- creating the mutual understanding and confidence necessary for any enduring security and co-operation. For these reasons, I shall be asking the executive secretary to circulate a written submission on this question for consideration at the second stage of the conference.

All of us, I am sure, are already thinking of what may follow a successful conference. On this subject, we in Canada have an open mind. As the negotiations proceed over the next months, we will be able more easily to reach a judgment on whether any follow-up machinery will be justified, and if so, what. If it is eventually decided that such machinery should be created, Canada's chief reoccupation will be to ensure that it will have clear and precise terms of reference, will not duplicate existing institutions and will provide for full participation by Canada and the United States of America as well as by all European states. The security of North America and Europe are interdependent: so are their economic and cultural future, and our common participation in this conference and in any follow-up to it will be essential.