

In our minds there are some issues that, because of their overriding importance and urgency, should be considered by this council and should, preferably, be the subject of a political declaration. This is one of them.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the General Assembly of the Organization of American States -- where, for the first time, all 34 nations in attendance were represented by democratic governments. This organization, which looks to Europe for leadership, expressed itself on this subject in a resolution.

Here in this forum, I am gratified by the very welcome support you have given our efforts, as expressed by Austria.

A political commitment concerning the issue of conventional arms transfers would be consonant with the commitments we have made in the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents.

#### A DECLARATION ON ARMS TRANSFERS

I believe we all agree that this meeting in Berlin provides a timely and appropriate opportunity for us to make a political declaration on arms transfers.

I am confident we all recognize the importance of the issue and its relevance for CSCE countries.

States which are party to the CFE agreement have a special responsibility not to contribute, by transfer of armaments, to excessive build-ups of conventional arms outside the CFE area of application.

We also need to encourage transparency in conventional arms transfers.

Now is the time to commit CSCE governments to serious, forward looking discussion of these issues.

I fervently hope that these points will command a consensus and be included in a summary of the results of this meeting.

#### STRENGTHENING THE UN

The other major lesson of the Gulf War is that if we strengthen the capacity of the UN to respond to breaches of security more effectively, in the future, we shall render such breaches less likely.

We must all become multilateralists and recognize that security is indivisible.

We must design a new security framework which, because of its diversity and flexibility, is able to meet the needs of our