

As we approach discussions on further steps, we will watch closely the practical operation of these confidence-building measures. Mr. Chairman, for many years Canada has worked with others to achieve balanced and verifiable arms reductions in order to create a stable balance of conventional forces in Europe, and we hope that further progress can be made. In considering any proposals that might supersede existing arms control discussions, we will want to ensure that they offer greater chances of success, and are not merely old wine in new bottles. Progress in existing forums such as MBFR, especially in the vital area of verification, would build confidence too.

In Basket II, Canada as a trading nation has an interest in the increased commercial and industrial cooperation that might be possible if the measures in the Final Act dealing with statistical and other information, business contacts including access to end users, and liberalization of trade and industrial cooperation, could be implemented and improved upon. In science and technology, more direct contacts among scientists and better access to publications, research, and information, would benefit us all. In problems of the environment, greater openness and cooperation to solve common problems, both local and continent-wide, would build confidence.

The Final Act broke new ground by incorporating, as an integral part of security and cooperation in Europe, the "human dimension" - an idea that runs through the document like a thread. It establishes that people, as well as their governments, have a vital role to play in creating international stability and confidence, and that the freer flow of people, ideas, and information is an indispensable element in all facets of European security and cooperation. Canada took a leading role at Geneva in developing the human contacts sections of Basket III. We were pleased to host the Ottawa Meeting of Experts on Human Rights, which made a real contribution to dialogue on Principle VII and related issues.

We are therefore keenly disappointed that the Experts Meetings on Human Rights and on Human Contacts, and the Cultural Forum, made no apparent progress either in elaborating on our commitments in the Final Act and the Madrid Concluding Document, or in encouraging their implementation. At Ottawa and Budapest, it appeared to us that some countries did not come to discuss these matters seriously, but to prevent serious discussion. At Berne, these countries made such minimal concessions that, even