

dressed by the Conference as was the need for progress on arms limitation and disarmament measures in the international organs that are mandated to negotiate these matters. Canada continues to believe that every opportunity must be seized, including those provided in the military provisions of the Final Act, to decelerate the arms race as an essential approach towards the building of greater confidence.

### Economic responsibilities

We also had a useful discussion about the many opportunities for greater co-operation in the economic and related areas that the Final Act has opened up. It was our hope that, as a result, agreement could be reached on a certain number of proposals which, by reflecting our common willingness to remove some of the obstacles which continue to impede co-operation, would have enhanced those opportunities. Here, as in other domains covered by the Final Act, it is Canada's objective to reduce impediments to open access to relevant information and to facilitate contacts between those in our countries who alone are in a position to translate the commitments of governments into more effective and more pervasive linkages. We had also hoped that, as we discussed these matters, we could look beyond the particular language of our mandate at the economic problems and responsibilities we share as part of the industrial community within the larger world system. We regard this as a direction in which our relationships must evolve if the assumptions that lie at the basis of the Final Act are to have real substance.

### Humanitarian questions

From the beginning, Canada has placed particular emphasis on the humanitarian dimension of our work. We see this as a fundamental, unique and indispensable contribution of the CSCE process to the development of *détente*. We were heartened that the review of implementation confirmed that these humanitarian questions are a legitimate subject of multilateral discussion. Most of us do not regard such issues as family reunification as being of secondary importance, waiting in the wings while political and military considerations occupy centre stage. If anything, our deliberations here in Belgrade have confirmed us in our view that human rights will remain a central pre-

cupation of our Government and most other governments represented here, as we move forward in meeting our mutual commitments.

In approaching this question, Canada proceeded on the basis that relations between states cannot remain unaffected where respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is seen to be deficient. Our discussions have shown that we have a long, long way to go and this will take time before we can feel confident that the inherent dignity of the human person and his prerogative to know and act upon his rights are being respected in all places and in all circumstances. There is evidence that individuals who have tried to exercise rights that are endorsed in the Final Act are still being harassed, exiled, arrested, tried and imprisoned. This has led the Parliament of Canada to adopt resolutions as a unanimous expression of its deep concern in respect of what we see as violations of fundamental human rights. We earnestly hope that the attention that we have focused on these matters will encourage governments to reflect on the negative impact of their practices.

We had hoped that Belgrade would be the occasion for all signatory governments not only to reaffirm their pledges to respect human rights, but also to act on them. We have never claimed that human rights are all there is to *détente*. What we have claimed and what we do claim is that, to the extent that *détente* rests on confidence, we cannot muster that confidence among our citizens unless it is seen to have a human dimension. Respect for human rights is part of the structure and balance of the Final Act. If we want the Final Act to be more than the sum of its parts, we cannot with impunity act as if the societies to which it relates were islands cut off from one another. Our concerns on these humanitarian issues are not motivated by a desire to wage ideological warfare, or to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

### Family contacts

In the specific area of human contacts, we tried to get acceptance for the idea that the provisions of the Final Act should be applied in such a way that family contacts — whether involving visits or reunification — would be facilitated as a normal routine so that such cases no longer would have to be the subject of individual negotiation between governments. We also

tried to get agreement that governments would facilitate normal communication of ideas and information between individuals particularly through the freer flow of printed material. For a country like Canada with its close links with Europe, this is a matter of direct and practical relevance. As Canada's Minister of State for Multiculturalism, I am particularly conscious of the degree to which events in Europe have found their way into the consciences of our nation and especially of that large portion of our population who trace their origins to Europe. In a freedom-loving society such as ours, questions of culture, religion and tradition are of fundamental importance and are to be respected along with civil and political rights.

We regret that our efforts to achieve a document of substance on these issues have been unavailing. We had hoped that in this important area, it might be possible to distil some understandings about how the provisions of the Final Act could be carried out more effectively and in a more routine way. Some may be made uncomfortable by a discussion of these humanitarian concerns but distaste for them will not make them go away. Certainly Canadian interest in them will not cease just because this meeting has ended. Our commitment to these goals will be vigorously maintained.

Canada will persist in underlining the importance of the humanitarian objectives for CSCE and *détente* which we, together with like-minded delegations, tried to advance here at Belgrade. We stand by the approach to *détente* which we took at the outset of the meeting. In our view it is fundamental that the individual has a central role in the furtherance of *détente*. Its benefits must be passed along to the individual, so as to give him the widest possible opportunity for living in a safe and humane world, and for enjoying economic security, cultural enrichment and normal human relationships.

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### Milestones of continuity

The Canadian Government, for its part, remains firmly attached to the policy of *détente*. But *détente*, by definition, is a two-way street. It will not exist simply because we say to ourselves that it must. If we want it to be a reality, we must make it a reality. The lesson of Belgrade must not go unlearned. But we must be

(Cont'd on P. 8)