

Members of the Atlantic Alliance in determining an ambitious objective to conclude the Vienna negotiations before the end of the year are aware of the enormous difficulties of such negotiations. It is, therefore, encouraging to see the Warsaw Pact countries as desirous as western countries to arrive at a substantial agreement very soon.

Some of these, and we note this with interest, are even prepared to make even more rapid progress as far as the retreat of troops are concerned, and anticipating in a way of the CFE to agreement. The proposals made a few days ago by President Bush move in the same direction and we are very happy about this agreement of different views of both sides. We now must deploy additional efforts in order to have a first agreement on arms control and have it ready for signing in a few months. We are confident that all sides will be flexible and imaginative. Now that the societies of these are adopting the ideas of democracy and liberty which are at the basis of the success of western societies our public opinion has the legitimate right to expect that the countries will renounce ideological renunciation and these will be followed by the elimination of excessive armaments. We feel that this is a precondition for building a new, free and united human perspective for a CSCE summit, which is expected to take place in the fall of this year, will be an additional impetus for each of us to continue and accelerate the work in Vienna so as to assure the signing of the CFE agreement at the time of that summit.

The CSCE summit will also be an opportunity to begin a thorough consideration of the way in which the East and the West will be able to tackle negotiations with a view to a second agreement on conventional arms reduction. In fact, we cannot stop halfway, quite the contrary, we must resolutely move forward to overcome the division of Europe which is, after all, our stated objective also means eliminating all superfluous military potential which represent a tangible symbol of such division.

NATO is prepared to consider new reductions and restrictions on conventional arms, as it was indicated in its overall concept for arms control and disarmament. The objective will imply a profound restructuring of armed forces so as to finally eliminate any capacity to have offensive action.

Mr. Chairman, if we wish to overcome the division of Europe, of course, we have to consider the future architecture of such a Europe. This has been mentioned on a number of occasions, that we are living not only in extraordinary changes of political reality of the eastern part of Europe, but also a teeming of ideas and proposals on the concept and structure of future Europe side by side with their hopes.

We have also seen emerging a stability and internal balance within that Europe. We can say that 1989 was the year where there