

Donald MacDonald, then Finance Minister, went to Belgrade in May at the invitation of his Yugoslav counterpart, M. Cemovic. Mr Jamieson accepted the invitation of Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milos Minic and made a two-day visit to Belgrade in June, while a seven-man parliamentary delegation visited Yugoslavia in September. In May, Mr Jamieson and the Yugoslav Ambassador to Canada exchanged instruments of ratification of the 1973 trade agreement between the two countries.

CSCE

A preparatory meeting of all 35 countries participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe was held in Belgrade from June 15 to August 5 to set the agenda and make other preparations for the first follow-up meeting to review progress in implementing the Helsinki Final Act.

The follow-up meeting of representatives of foreign ministers began in Belgrade on October 4. Mr Jamieson's special representative was a Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, while the head of delegation was Canada's Ambassador to Hungary, who had special responsibility for the CSCE. Besides officials, the delegation included nine Members of Parliament and the Senate, representing the three main political parties.

The review of implementation at Belgrade began with general statements in open plenary, and was followed in closed session by more specific statements on the main aspects of the Final Act, touching on the principles guiding relations between states, security questions, economic and scientific co-operation, security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, human contacts, information, culture and education, and the follow-up to Belgrade.

On the whole, the discussions at Belgrade were businesslike. Those relating to security and economic matters were largely free of controversy, while discussions of human-rights questions often resulted in heated exchanges with Eastern European delegations. By the time the meeting's first target termination-date—December 22—was reached, delegations had finished their review of implementation but

had not completed consideration of the more than 100 proposals aimed at improving that implementation. The meeting therefore adjourned until January 17, 1978.

While it could not be said that a true East-West dialogue took place, the meeting did provide an opportunity for delegations to air their views on all subjects covered by the Helsinki Final Act in a forthright manner. The possibility of conducting discussions of this kind on such a broad range of issues that affected East-West relations was undoubtedly one of the important achievements of Belgrade.

Reflecting the Canadian Government's commitment to the full implementation of all aspects of the Final Act, the Canadian delegation was active in discussions on all subjects but, in view of the special interest and concern of Canadians regarding human rights and humanitarian questions such as family visits and family reunification, its attention was inevitably focused on those questions. With other delegations, Canada attempted to guarantee more firmly that individuals would not suffer for doing those things the Final Act itself sought to promote, and that they would be able to carry on a dialogue with their governments about commitments freely undertaken by them. Canada also sought to persuade delegations to agree that the provisions of the Final Act would be applied in such a way as to make favourable decisions by governments the rule rather than the exception in cases of family visits, family-reunification and marriages across national boundaries, so that such cases would no longer have to be the subject of individual negotiation between governments. A third Canadian object was agreement that normal communication of information and ideas between individuals would be made easier, especially by the freer flow of printed material.