

The document also contains provisions to convene, prior to the next follow-up meeting, two experts meetings, one on human rights and the other on human contacts. These meetings will open further the dialogue on issues of fundamental concern.

Canada is particularly pleased at the prospect of acting as host to the Meeting of Experts on Human Rights which will take place in 1985. This subject has taken on special importance in Canada following the entrenchment of human rights in our constitutional documents with consequential effect on our legal system. This meeting will review the implementation of the human rights records of the participating states and, while recognizing the different approaches to human rights, will try to reduce the wide differences and the misunderstandings which trouble relations between East and West. The terms of reference for the meeting are not so clear nor detailed as we would have liked; nevertheless, we have concluded that the participants will want to discuss fully and with sincerity the human rights practices in other participating states as well as in their own. It is necessary to further the dialogue and commentary on human rights in other participating states if we hope to induce them to conform to international law and their commitments under the Final Act. We look forward to welcoming to Ottawa, the participants in this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, I have outlined briefly the most positive elements in the draft concluding document. They hold out the hope of decreasing mutual suspicion and increasing security by fostering the transparency of military operations on the part of both East and West. They hold out the hope of enhanced cooperation through the expansion of economic, scientific and cultural contacts between East and West. They hold out the hope to individuals that they may once again be reunited with their families. They hold out the hope to individuals that their rights and liberties, their fundamental dignity as individuals, will be respected by their own governments. They hold out the hope of a renewed vigour and progress in human relations as an increasingly important aspect of the dialogue between and among our governments.

My government will commit itself to abide by the obligations set out in the Madrid Document, just as it has abided by the undertaking it agreed to in Helsinki. We will do everything in our power to turn these new hopes into concrete realities. We expect all other participating states to do the same. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that Canada will not remain silent in the face of violations of these commitments, violations which serve only to undermine the credibility of the