

Bulgaria is also in favour of sparing no effort so that during the CSCE summit this fall a treaty on conventional armed forces and arms reductions among Warsaw Treaty and NATO member countries could be signed as well as new agreements to be reached on confidence and security-building measures among all 35 participating governments.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues, let me remind you of the fact that Bulgaria belongs to a part of Europe with a turbulent past and complex historical heritage. Moreover, it is one of the front-line states in the southern flank of Europe where pronounced military asymmetries exist.

In the context of on-going dynamic and radical democratic reforms in my country, which lead to a growing public awareness of and concern for security matters. There emerges a strong consensus on the need to comply with, and strictly observe, the principle of indivisibility of peace, stability and security in Europe as a whole, and against any solution which willingly or by sheer neglect would establish zones with unequal degree of security.

That is why, while wholeheartedly supporting mutually acceptable solutions for central Europe in CFE negotiations and in the possible agreement to be concluded among the 23 countries, we shall insist on similar equitable arrangements for the southern-flank area consonant with that provision of the mandate of the Vienna talks which stipulates: "...quite equal security...for every individual country at all stages of the reductions".

In terms of security and stability, each and every country in Europe should enjoy equal benefits whether it is in the center or on the periphery of the continent. This should be the guiding principle in discussing and settling such matters as regional divisions; regional subceilings; the possibilities for redeployment; or regional reasonable sufficiency rules.

Our specific position on this matter will be shortly presented by Bulgaria's delegation in Vienna.

One of these would be a provision that no single state should dominate the military in South-East Europe, namely, that no state should possess in this region troops and armaments above a certain percentage/ i.e. 30 per cent of all the forces/ which is enough for regional reasonable sufficiency.

Mr. Chairman, one of the facets of democracy is the genuine openness of society. It is obvious, therefore, why conditions for establishing an Open Skies regime nowadays are more favourable than ever. The Bulgarian government wholeheartedly supports and is willing to contribute to a constructive discussion and realization of the Open Skies initiative of the United States' President.