

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to raise a few ideas concerning the most important current disarmament forum, that is the CFE talks. Our opinion is that these talks, too, must adapt to the changing circumstances. Developments in the political and military situation in Europe make it indispensable that an agreement be reached in the year 1990; the outlines of this agreement having fully taken shape at the talks by now.

It is particularly important not to delay political decisions needed to reach an agreement. We are of the opinion that conditions necessary to making these decisions already exist regarding the most important issues at the talks.

Regarding the issue of air force, we see a basic consensus in that. The agreement must limit all combat aircraft. So the debate should focus on which of the disputed subcategories will be limited and how. Requirements of European stability, as well as those of an equal security of participants, must be considered when working out an agreement.

We believe that a common ceiling should apply to all units of combat-capable aircraft, permanently land-based naval aviation, and medium bombers. As for strategic bombers and for interceptors of Soviet Home Air Defence, special solutions will have to be worked out.

We appreciate and welcome President Bush's proposal of February 2 as a significant step forward on the personnel issue. The proposal is fully in compliance with the Hungarian concept presented in Vienna, January 18, calling for a reduction of troops stationed abroad to the lowest possible level. This proposal enables us to outline an agreement acceptable to all, based on a sufficiency rule establishing an upper limit on troops stationed abroad by any participant, while postponing a comprehensive limitation of personnel to be established by the next agreement.

I believe we need an open-minded approach to the post-CFE-I period. Our current perception is that the conceptual basis of the current talks -- namely, their alliance-based approach -- cannot be maintained. We should use the period between the signing and entering into force of the agreement to work out -- involving all member countries of the CSCE -- the mandate for the next phase of CFE talks. It would be important to see these talks start immediately upon the agreement's entering into force.

Mr. Chairman, it is symbolic for us that the location for the signing of the treaty creating an Open Skies regime will, hopefully, be Budapest. Hungary considers intensified European co-operation an important guarantee of its own future and democratic development. We are interested in seeing the favourable political processes currently experienced in our continent stretching out to