

Canada has never had illusions about the obstacles that lie in the way of full implementation of the Final Act. Our review confirmed only too clearly that after only two and a half years we are indeed a long way from improving security and promoting co-operation in Europe within the full measure of our capacities. But we also discovered that there is a deep-seated concern, on the part of all participating states, to seek progress on those parts of the Final Act of special interest to them. Our concern for positive achievement has certainly not diminished since Helsinki and, judging by the number of proposals tabled, this increased concern is shared by many, undoubtedly because expectations have been raised by the Final Act. This represents a positive potential that must not fail to find expression in Madrid, lest the expectations that have been raised be shattered.

It is evident from our statements over the past months what improvements in implementation Canada hoped to see emerge from Belgrade. There is the vital matter of improving security. In an effort to build on the experience we had gained in the past two and a half years, we tried with others to develop and refine the "confidence-building measures" relating particularly to military manoeuvres and movements. Our aim in this area was greater openness regarding military matters. In our view, this would contribute to increasing confidence as well as to reducing the risks of misunderstanding, if not of miscalculation. Our efforts, while commanding broad support, did not gain the consensus required.

The importance of halting the arms race and establishing more stable relations, particularly in Europe, where major military potentials are concentrated, was addressed by the conference, as was the need for progress on arms limitation and disarmament measures in the international organs that are mandated to negotiate these matters. Canada continues to believe that every opportunity must be seized, including those provided in the military provisions of the Final Act, to decelerate the arms race as an essential approach towards the building of greater confidence.

We also had a useful discussion about the many opportunities for greater co-operation in the economic and related areas that the Final Act has opened up. It was our hope that, as a result, agreement could be reached on a certain number of proposals that, by reflecting our common willingness to remove some of the obstacles that continue to impede co-operation, would have enhanced those opportunities. Here, as in other domains covered by the Final Act, it is Canada's objective to reduce impediments to open access to relevant information and to facilitate contacts between those in our countries who alone are in a position to translate the commitments of governments into more effective and more pervasive linkages. We had also hoped that, as