

Poland also evaluates the Open Skies concept from the viewpoint of its own geopolitical and geostrategic situation. We are located in a densely populated, sensitive area of the continent. Poland will strive to have that specific situation of the region reflected in the agreement.

Mr. Chairman, many technical issues will have to be resolved before the Open Skies concept becomes a reality. This will surely be a time and energy consuming task. Various solutions have their merits. However, I do believe, that the political and military values inherent in an Open Skies agreement will prevail over its details. It is in such a spirit that the Polish delegation will try to contribute to our endeavours.

Mr. Chairman, I have prepared my text using Shakespeare's language, but I would not like to reach the end of my comments without having expressed myself in French, the language of a country whose culture is so important to the entire world, to Europe, and for the heart of every Pole, and I cannot forget that is one of the official languages of our host country.

France, especially through its presence in the European community, made a major contribution to the support of democratic changes in central Europe, these changes allowing our meeting to take place today in a spirit of solidarity.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I would like to address my thanks to the Government of Canada for its initiative in calling this conference and for the creation of excellent conditions for the operation of the conference. We see Canadian hospitality, it makes us very pleased, and it is extraordinary. I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I would like to thank you for having used the two official languages of Canada. It is an example of multilingualism, which I think can be appreciated by a large number of my fellow Canadians.

I take great pleasure now in calling on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, his excellency, Hans Van Den Broek.

HIS EXCELLENCY, HANS VAN DEN BROEK,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

As was recalled earlier this morning, the idea of opening our skies to allow inspections by air over each other's territory is