

Given the present state of tension in international relations, we are approaching Madrid without illusions about the degree of progress we can expect to achieve. With our allies, we shall take a balanced approach. We shall seek to further military security and economic cooperation, as well as achieve progress in human rights, the freer flow of people, information and ideas. We shall insist on a thorough review of the behaviour of participating states regarding their commitments to CSCE. We hope in this way to give new vigour to the CSCE process.

But we also realize that in the course of the Madrid meeting we may have to make some hard and realistic judgements about the usefulness of our proceedings. I sincerely hope, however, that this unique CSCE forum will prove to be worth-while, and that we shall be able to make progress in meeting the concerns which Canadians of Ukrainian and other origins have quite rightly put forward.

Before closing, Mr. Chairman, I want to refer briefly to other actions of the Government in regard to these issues which are of such importance to you.

The question of human rights has long been a preoccupation of the Government of Canada. It is a cause we have tried to advance internationally in the various fora where we feel useful influence can be exerted. One of these is the United Nations and its various organs. In February of this year, for example, we put before the United Nations Human Rights Commission a Resolution regarding alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations' system to improve the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Essentially, the Resolution -- which the Commission adopted by consensus -- re-emphasized the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, appealed to governments to encourage and support individuals and organs of society which promote the effective observance of human rights, and pointed out that the unlawful limitation or persecution of anyone exercising his human rights and fundamental freedoms is at variance with the obligations of states under a number of United Nations' instruments.

More recently, Mr. Chairman, during the course of the General Assembly of the United Nations, I had occasion to discuss with Mr. Gromyko the question of family reunification. I pointed out that many people in Canada had come here from the Soviet Union and hoped to be re-united with members of their families still in the U.S.S.R. Mr. Gromyko told me that was not the first time the question had been raised. He informed me that in the future all cases