

The Soviet Union evidently considers that it has the privilege of playing a role in influencing the internal affairs of Poland and other states of Eastern Europe. We reject this position. The political configuration of Eastern Europe is not immutable. The Final Act held out the prospect of peaceful change, and of the development of a constructive understanding in East-West relations. The USSR has no right to interfere in the national political and social development of any country. Such action is contrary to the spirit of the Final Act.

The Soviet Union denies it has played a direct role in events in Poland but we see otherwise. The Soviet Union cannot deny that twice in the last year, in an obvious effort to intimidate its neighbour, Soviet forces held unusually large exercises close to the Polish border. The political message was obvious to all. The Soviet Union cannot deny that for months prior to the imposition of martial law, the government-controlled Soviet media undertook a strident propaganda campaign designed to create national antipathy towards the Polish people and to intimidate their efforts to reconstruct their social system.

The Soviet Union must cease its interference. The events in Poland were counselled, induced and abetted by Soviet actions. The threat of direct intervention remains. I call on the Soviet Union to honour its international commitments and allow the Polish people their inalienable right to pursue a policy of national renewal and reconstruction without threat or menace.

In summary, I believe we now find ourselves confronted with a situation which, if the CSCE process is to retain its credibility, cannot be ignored. Failure to face this situation squarely will do yet further damage both to détente and the CSCE process in which we have all placed so much hope for the future.