

--- UPON RESUMING AT 3:00 P.M.

THE CHAIRMAN:

Colleagues, while some of the media are leaving the floor, let me give you the speaking order that has been agreed for this afternoon. And I want to express in advance my appreciation to people who have agreed to move their interventions ahead to today.

Our order will be Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Spain, Romania, Portugal, Luxembourg, the German Democratic Republic and Italy.

I would like now to call upon the Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, His Excellency Jiri Dienstbier.

HIS EXCELLENCY JIRI DIENSTBIER,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

Mr. Chairman, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, for his welcome. And I would like to highly appreciate the care and hospitality extended to us by our Canadian hosts.

We are meeting at the time of dynamic changes in the eastern half of the divided Europe which lead to fundamental shifts in the East-West relations. In this context, all our institutions and often even thinking are lagging behind the political development. Nor can we in this respect evade the question of the present and the future of the blocs, the Warsaw Treaty and NATO.

I agree with the view that until now the balance between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty has been a guarantor of European stability and security. How far is this valid for the future?

The new situation speaks against the existing concept of European security, resting on a bloc basis in the area of the Helsinki process.

The states of the eastern alliance are today developing toward political and economic plurality. This is reflected, inter alia, in democratization of their allied relations. The Warsaw Pact ceased to be a tool for keeping totalitarian bureaucracies in power.

We desire a dynamic development in Europe in conditions of stability. The Czechoslovak Government of National Understanding, however, is not convinced that stability can be maintained, or even strengthened, by conserving the status quo.

We proceed from the assumption that the prospect of European security should be based on a comprehensive, bloc-free, collective and democratic approach; that the bloc concept should be replaced