

Canadian Ambassador Bauer declared:

...Canada is committed to increasing, through all the avenues offered by modern means of Communication, freer and wider dissemination of information of all kinds.... [W]e welcome and support the decisions by Poland, Hungary and the Soviet Union to comply, to a much greater degree than in the past, with their CSCE commitments in this sphere. It is regrettable, however, that some signatory states remain locked in a dark age of information where the only 'correct' facts are those put out by the ruling party....¹⁷

An information sheet, distributed by External Affairs, later identified the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and especially Romania, as having displayed a negative attitude at the meeting, while the Soviet Union's performance was described as "uneven".¹⁸

Canada also played an active role at the inaugural meeting of the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension in Paris, between 30 May and 23 June 1989. In his speech to the opening session of the Conference, External Affairs Minister Clark noted that the next meeting would be held in Copenhagen in 1990, and went on :

...Then it will be fair to expect full compliance with all provisions [of the Vienna Concluding Document] by all participating states.... Already there has been enough progress in certain areas to confirm that the expectations of Vienna were realistic. On the issue of family reunification, I am pleased to say that Canada now has no outstanding cases with Hungary, Poland and the Soviet Union.... In Poland the Round Table Agreement between the government and the solidarity [sic] movement has refreshed the hope for human rights and progress towards democracy.... In Hungary the tearing down of fenced barriers to the West has been accompanied by expanding economic and political pluralism and freedom.... And in the Soviet Union we have seen remarkable elections.... We look forward to the legal and constitutional reforms which will firmly secure the rule of law in the Soviet Union and work towards the fulfillment of the human rights obligations that its government has agreed [sic].... There are, unfortunately, some countries whose record has not matched their Vienna commitments.... One of them is Bulgaria, its treatment of its Turkish minority population is cause for particular concern.... Romania...has formally declared that it is not bound by the important new human dimension undertakings.... It has, in short, openly and conspicuously violated important elements of the Vienna Concluding Document. It has continued, with increasing heavy-handedness, to ignore the fundamental rights and freedoms of large numbers of its people.¹⁹

17 "CSCE Information Forum: Statement by Ambassador William Bauer, Head of the Canadian Delegation," 20 April 1989, p. 3.

18 "Canada at the CSCE, London Information Forum, April 18-May 12, 1989," p. 2.

19 Rt. Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, "[A] Speech...to the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension, Paris, May 30, 1989." Department of External Affairs, *Statements and Speeches* No. 89/15, pp. 3-5.