

For our part, we are not prepared to believe that progress is impossible, that non-compliance with the Final Act is a fact of life that we must accept and, indeed, remain silent about. Such a conclusion would make genuine progress in the CSCE impossible, and sharply limit the range of East-West cooperation for which our citizens have a right to hope. We have concluded, therefore, that we have no choice but to continue, frankly, fairly and factually, to present our concerns. To the extent that our concerns are dealt with seriously and constructively, confidence will be increased and, with confidence, security.

The problems are real. They will not disappear without effort, and although we accept that there can be no immediate solution, there must at least be an effort to find solutions and a trend in compliance which is positive rather than negative. Otherwise, the Helsinki Final Act achieves less than it can achieve and we disappoint the expectations of our people who hoped to receive from us something more than formalistic arguments and complacency.

It happens that today is the day chosen by the United Nations to honour human rights and since my delegation has not yet dealt in detail with this subject, and with Principle VII in particular, I should like to set out some of our concerns in this area of the Final Act.

Canada views the human rights issue today with the same concerns that led us to sponsor the experts meeting on this issue on which I briefly reported two weeks ago. I wish now to explain these concerns once again and to make the Canadian position on human rights as clear as I can. Put simply, it is this: If all states, including those represented here, would deal with their citizens according to the letter and the spirit of their international human rights obligations, the mistrust which marks our relations today could give way to the confidence needed on which to build security in the broadest, most comprehensive, sense.

Mr. Chairman, let me quote some familiar texts: "We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war...and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights..."

"Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world..."