

transparency and reduce tension.

The Open Skies initiative, indeed, is part and parcel of a movement that my country has endorsed and contributed to. The Stockholm Agreement has allowed the eastern countries and the western countries, and indeed the non-allied and neutral countries, to conduct mutual inspections to guarantee the transparency of military activities.

The Vienna Mandate and the negotiations on the establishment of confidence-building measures and security has amplified this movement toward a greater openness between peoples. But now we need to go farther today.

The establishment of an Open Skies regime offers us three opportunities. First of all, it gives a new impetus to the search of new confidence-building measures and safety measures in Europe. I have already said this: allowing people to overfly one's territory without restriction by a surveillance plane from another country is "the" expression of the trust that we place in the latter, and will contribute to the reinforcement of the stability that we all desire.

Second, the establishment of an Open Skies regime will allow us to contribute to the verification of an agreement on the disarmament of conventional forces in a zone that extends from the Atlantic to the Urals. The negotiation of this agreement is progressing in Vienna, and I will come back to it in a minute.

Finally, Open Skies meets with our constant concern to avoid any evasion of the future agreement on conventional disarmaments through the uncontrolled accumulation of forces over and beyond the zone between the Atlantic and the Urals.

Open Skies undoubtedly will offer a direct contribution to the solution to this tricky question. All of us will be able to be sure that over and beyond this zone, military activities and the production of armaments is not in contradiction with the objectives of the agreement to reduce conventional forces.

Indeed, it is in Europe that we have accumulated the most incredible quantity of armaments in history. In the name of the maintenance of balance of terror, which has become intolerable, it is, indeed, on behalf of this that we have negotiated the most important agreement on disarmament after the war. Indeed, these measures of confidence will establish a new order, free of the vestiges of the last 45 years. All the European countries have the task of participating in this vast movement -- indeed, the neutral and non-aligned countries as well, of the CSCE. On what basis could one possibly deny them the right? I see no basis on which to do this.