

and we have to take this into account.

As for the field of geographical application, it is not the same as for the CFE. The two regimes, one a verification regime and the other a transparency regime, will be called upon to support each other.

But Open Skies, regardless of how interesting it is, should not make us lose sight of the fact that the CFE agreement will be the true cornerstone of a new, safe environment which is taking place in Europe. This new order, which we all hope for, can only be established if we eliminate all of the military imbalances which have been accumulated over 40 years of hidden confrontation.

Therefore, we would like a CFE first agreement before the end of the year. This is a necessary point that we have to cross in East-West politics.

There are still a few obstacles to be eliminated. For example, the question of stationed forces, aviation and helicopters. On these three points, with our allies, we have made proposals which I think would make things advance more quickly.

On the question of stationed personnel, we would like to see significant lowering of the ceilings. This proposal goes in the direction of the steps that are taking place, toward greater reductions than were originally planned.

As for aviation, we are responding to a request of the U.S.S.R. to include air defence interceptors in a separate category which allows those, who wish so, to structure their forces with the necessary flexibility. This proposal does not call into question the very essence of our approach which would, like all ground-based combat planes, regardless of their location, to be covered. I would like to insist on this point, which is very crucial to us.

The new definitions for combat helicopters also meet some of the concerns of our Eastern European partners, which they have mentioned.

We have to organize ourselves to reach an agreement this summer in order to have the 35 countries sign it. The CSBMs must evolve at the same time as the CFE without it slowing down the CFE process, of course, which I mentioned was very important in the context of solving the major political issues that the 35-country summit will deal with.

I would now like to come to the summit itself, Mr. Chairman.

The CSCE is the natural framework in which 35 countries can look at the situation, can reflect on the future, and more concretely prepare the next meeting in view of what has been