

And now, a few considerations on the subject of our dialogue here.

There is no doubt that the conference should begin movement toward agreement on an Open Skies regime. Even in its first phase, specific results could be achieved. For example, a declaration of principles, or any other form of document, could be adopted to serve as a basis for an agreement, and this would serve as a basis for developing an agreement.

The Warsaw Treaty Organizations, in fact, are going to make a proposal on this subject and it will be made by the Hungarian delegation.

We view the Open Skies agreement as a document in its own right which would not be formally linked with other arms control agreements. There must, however, be a substantive link to make sure that the agreement would serve to prevent possible violations of other international agreements and treaties and, in that sense, to a certain extent affect them.

So we have to retain the possibility of adjustments in it with due regard for its relationship with the obligations of the participating states under other arms control and disarmament agreements and with relevant verification arrangements.

As we understand it, the Open Skies regime would permit participating states, on a mutual and equitable basis, to fly unarmed planes over the territories of other participating states to monitor military activities. For the Soviet Union, the purpose of the regime is to build confidence, ensure the predictability of military activities, and promote the process of arms control and disarmament and verification of compliance with obligations assumed.

As we see it, participants in the regime could at the initial stage include those countries which are now actively involved in the dialogue on issues of disarmament. However, we do not rule out the participation of other countries, too, in this process. In other words, the Open Skies regime should, in our view, be the result of concluding a multilateral agreement, either spelling out the details of the future regime or briefly outlining its objectives and substance as specified in technical protocols appended to the agreement.

The Open Skies regime must rest on the principle of comprehensive and full equality -- equality in the acquisition of, and access to, information which must not be used to the detriment of any of the sides; equality as regards the area of application of the regime covering the states' military activities not only on their national territories but also outside; equality as regards