

Canada Weekly

REF

Volume 6, No. 13

March 29, 1978



Ottawa, Canada

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Call for commitment to continuity after Belgrade talks disappoint

"It is a source of disappointment to my Government that this document does not reflect the vital substantive concerns of participating states, in that we could not agree to express the need for more positive and constructive efforts so as to make the Final Act a more vital and dynamic part of the relationships between us."

Norman Cafik, Minister of State for Multiculturalism and special representative of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, was expressing Canada's views in the closing statement to the Meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Belgrade, Yugoslavia on March 9. The Final Act to which he refers is the document that emerged from the Helsinki summit meeting of August 1975 which was under review at Belgrade.

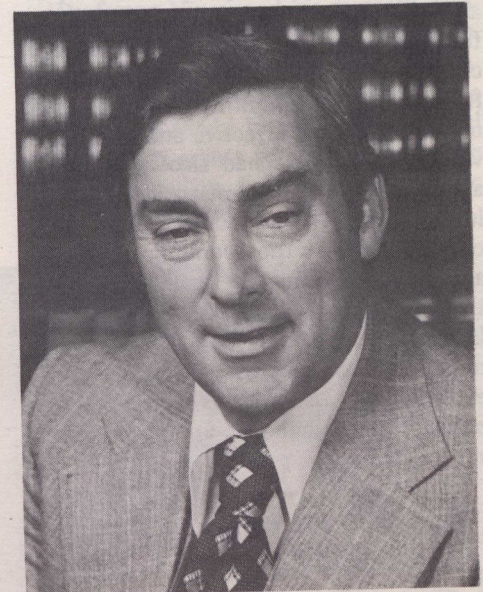
Mr. Cafik explains in the following passages from his address:

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Canada has never had illusions about the obstacles which lie in the way of full implementation of the Final Act. Our review confirmed only too clearly that after only two-and-a-half years we are indeed a long way from improving security and promoting co-operation in Europe within the full measure of our capacities. But we also discovered that there is a deep-seated concern, on the part of all participating states, to seek progress on those parts of the Final Act of special interest to them. Our concern for positive achievement has certainly not diminished since Helsinki and judging by the number of proposals tabled, this increased concern is shared by many undoubtedly because expectations have been raised by the Final Act. This represents a positive potential which must not fail to find expression in Madrid, [the site of the next CSCE meeting in November 1980] lest the expectations that have been raised be shattered.

Improvement of security

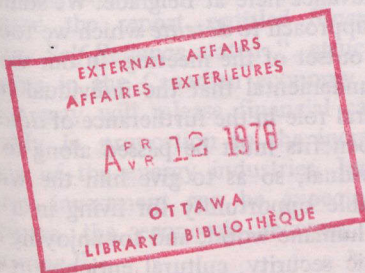
It is evident from our statements over the past months what improvements in implementation Canada hoped to see emerge from Belgrade. There is the vital matter of improving security. In an effort to build on the experience we had gained in the past two-and-a-half years, we tried with others to develop and refine the Confidence Building Measures relating



Norman Cafik

particularly to military manoeuvres and movements. Our aim in this area was greater openness regarding military matters. In our view, this would contribute to increasing confidence as well as to reducing the risks of misunderstanding, if not of miscalculation. Our efforts, while commanding broad support, did not gain the consensus required.

The importance of halting the arms race and establishing more stable relations, particularly in Europe, where major military potentials are concentrated, was ad-



On March 30, 1954 the first subway-train system in Canada opened in Toronto.

Mar. 29/78