

The Canadian Government is very conscious of both the problems and opportunities which lie ahead as we start these discussions. On the one hand, for the countries of Europe, these negotiations will give rise to fundamental questions related to national security; Canada shares these concerns since it regards its security as inseparable from that of Europe. On the other hand, the MBFR negotiations hold the prospect of a more stable peace and increased mutual cooperation for the European countries with which Canada enjoys close and expanding political, economic and cultural relations.

The Canadian delegation will play its full part in what it hopes will be a common effort to meet the challenge and to take advantage of the opportunities presented by these negotiations. We are optimistic, but we will also be realistic. We are hopeful, but we also intend to be vigilant. We will assess the intentions of other parties to the negotiations not only by their words here, but also by their deeds elsewhere.

The agreement of the Austrian authorities to host this important conference in Vienna and to make available the necessary facilities and services is deeply appreciated by the Canadian Government. On its behalf I would like to join all my colleagues in thanking the Austrian Government for its full cooperation.

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