

(Mr. Genscher, Germany)

... This urgently requires additional radical disarmament and arms control measures, but also a broad-based open dialogue on all aspects of security, and lastly the strengthening of stability in Europe through effective conflict prevention and crisis management. Here, Mr. President, you have rightly pointed out the close connections between disarmament, conflict prevention and crisis management. Success here is in the interests of the CSCE States and in the interests of the whole world. The Helsinki meeting is also to see the signing of an "Open Skies" agreement which will make military transparency and thus confidence building throughout the CSCE area a reality for the first time. Willingness to accept comprehensive transparency, inspection and verification must be a major element of cooperative security and confidence building.

An example of this in the field of chemical weapons are challenge inspections throughout the territory of the contracting States. They are an extreme means of checking compliance with the chemical weapons convention. Outside Europe, the opening of sensitive facilities to such inspections is still largely unknown, but our experience in this area has been good. I can tell you, Mr. President, that today Germany is probably the most inspected country in the world, and this has in no way impaired our security. On the contrary, it has won us more confidence.

It is the attitude to transparency, the willingness to accept inspection and verification that is the touchstone which separates two approaches, which separates old thinking from new thinking. To wish to keep everything secret is old thinking. Complete openness is a manifestation of new thinking. Those who have nothing to hide need not fear openness. They can rather prove the good intentions that stand behind their words. Thus, this new openness becomes an essential element of confidence building. As we know, distrust is one of the causes of tensions, and tensions are the causes of the arms races that follow.

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