

CSCE Helsinki Meeting
10 July 1992

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

The Prime Minister of Norway
Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland

Mr. Chairman,

When asked about the aim of his vision for the future some four decades ago, British Foreign Minister Bevin answered that he wanted to be able to go down to Victoria Station and buy a ticket to wherever he wanted to go in this world.

Today, we have come very close. There will be few formal obstacles. But the destination of our choice may be unsafe, unstable, or torn by internal conflict.

The conflict potential of the nineties includes the triple scourge of militant nationalism, xenophobia and intolerance. They pose the gravest threat to our common security.

We have to give ourselves the means to deal with these risks and problems.

We will be taking important steps in that direction here in Helsinki. Just as it was obvious for us to become member of the new peace organization in 1945 and vest it with powers, it should be obvious to all countries represented here that we must develop a system of interlocking institutions and vest them with more effective powers.

We are gradually improving the CSCE, but it cannot resolve all the problems on its own. Rather, we must mobilize the entire international community and draw upon the resources of a number of existing institutions.

The European Community and the North Atlantic Alliance are the most effective peace organizations we have. Together with the Western European Union and the Council of Europe, these institutions possess experience and resources that we must make maximum use of if we are to succeed in our efforts to make the CSCE area secure and stable, both for ourselves and for future generations.

Today, we should have been spending our time and energy investing in our common future, developing common economic and environmental rules for more than 700 million people in Europe alone. And we should have been able to take for granted implementation of the body of principles we have developed in the CSCE.

But since we met in Paris, we have also experienced intolerable and unacceptable bloodshed and conflicts. The

savagery of the fratricidal war in what was once Yugoslavia is appalling and has caused revulsion all over the world.

A responsibility of the gravest nature rests with those leaders who have caused thousands of lives to be lost, a million people to flee their homes, towns to be demolished into ruins, and a significant part of Europe's common cultural heritage to be destroyed.

In particular, the siege of Sarajevo and other towns in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as Croatia shows utter disregard for established norms of civilized behaviour and contempt for the most fundamental CSCE principles.

Any government that foments, aids or abets such outrages bears a heavy responsibility. The international community cannot under any circumstances condone the Serbian attempt to achieve political objectives through military aggression. And - other parties must refrain from aggravating the situation.

Serbia and its proxies must cease their aggression at once, allow international aid to reach the long-suffering population of Bosnia-Herzegovina and cooperate with the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations and the European Community. In the meantime there is no alternative but to withhold from the Belgrade regime the benefits of international cooperation.

We must also increase our assistance to the victims who have been forced to leave their homes.

We must all answer the calls from the High Commissioner for Refugees for increased financial support and share the burden equitably between us. We support the proposal to convene a European conference on refugees and burdensharing.

What used to be Yugoslavia is not the only region of conflict with which the CSCE community is faced. The violence must also stop in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, in the Trans-Dniester region of Moldova and in the Ossetian part of Georgia. Elsewhere disputes are simmering beneath the surface and may erupt into armed hostilities unless peaceful solutions are found in time.

The deployment of UN peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia and the decision to create a CSCE peace conference for Nagorno-Karabakh are examples of the kind of inter-institutional cooperation we need. But our efforts to address and resolve peacefully the underlying potential for conflicts have so far not been successful.

We need a range of effective new means and mechanisms for crisis management and conflict prevention. The Helsinki Follow-up Meeting has done important work in this area, as reflected in the Document we are about to adopt.

The establishment of a CSCE peacekeeping capability is an important step forward. By opening the possibility of drawing upon the resources of institutions such as NATO, the WEU and

the EC, we are translating the concept of interlocking institutions into practical reality.

But we cannot restrict our focus to conflicts that have already erupted into hostilities. We must address root causes, not only symptoms.

Cooperation to build and consolidate democratic institutions and the rule of law is a priority task. So are efforts to ensure environmentally sustainable and socially responsible economic development. Those of our partners undergoing painful but necessary reform have a right to expect our support. This is in reality a matter of enlightened self-interest. A complete withdrawal of former Soviet forces from the Baltic States is a priority issue. A timetable must be agreed without delay.

We attach particular importance to the environmental threats connected with military activities and installations. Recent reports of dumping at sea of radioactive waste and chemical munitions are a source of great concern. Measures providing for enhanced openness, exchange of information and early warning are urgently required and should be pursued in the context of the Forum for Security Cooperation, as a supplement to the bilateral efforts that are already under way.

As recent events have shown, the issue of nuclear safety is a particularly pressing concern. Installations built to earlier and unsatisfactory standards must be upgraded. Preferably, such installations should be closed and replaced by environmentally sound sources of energy.

Norway has put forward a plan for regional cooperation in the North, involving local and regional authorities in Northern Norway, Northwestern Russia and Northern Finland. We are greatly encouraged by the response to this initiative among our partners. The initiative includes measures which are aimed at improving the security of Russian nuclear power plants. International efforts to improve the security of such plants are urgently needed, and not only with respect to the Chernobyl-type reactor.

Mr. Chairman,

The adoption today of limitations on military manpower is an important achievement. But the foundation for our future security cooperation will not be rock-solid until the CFE Treaty on conventional arms has entered into force. We have provided for provisional application of the Treaty. But that must be followed by formal ratification and entry into force. We strongly welcome the ratification of the CFE Treaty by the Russian Federation on July 8. We urge once more those parties that have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so without delay.