

1970s

1970

December

The visit of West German Chancellor Willy Brandt to Poland – and his gesture of kneeling in front of a monument for the Warsaw ghetto victims – typifies the importance of *Ostpolitik* in restoring confidence between former enemies.

1972

22 November

Preparatory talks for the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) begin in Dipoli, Finland. The talks conclude on 8 June 1973 with a set of Final Recommendations known as the 'Blue Book'.

May

United States and Soviet Union sign SALT I (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) in Moscow, an agreement that froze at existing levels the number of strategic ballistic missile launchers of both sides.

1973

3 to 7 July

First stage of the CSCE is held in Helsinki, at which the foreign ministers of the 35 participating States outline their positions on European security and adopt the Blue Book, launching the 'Helsinki Process'.

18 September

Substantive working phase of the CSCE begins in Geneva. Experts from the participating States take part in the first-ever multilateral East-West negotiating process, which ends on 21 July 1975.

October

An oil embargo by a number of Arab oil-exporting States against the United States, Europe and Japan for their support of Israel, provokes a global energy crisis.

1974

February

Nobel Prize winning writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn is expelled from the Soviet Union.

March

After five months, the Arab oil-exporting States decide to end the oil embargo.

August

Watergate scandal provokes U.S. President Richard Nixon's resignation.

1970s

1975

30 July

First CSCE Summit of Heads of State or Government takes place and culminates on 1 August 1975 in the signing of the Helsinki Final Act.

1977

4 October

First Follow-Up Meeting to the CSCE Helsinki Summit begins in Belgrade. As agreed in the Final Act, the participating States continue the multilateral process by periodically exchanging views on the implementation of the provisions of the Act and the tasks defined by the Conference. The Belgrade Meeting ends on 9 March 1978.

September

Fifteen States, including the United States and the Soviet Union, sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Pact, curbing the spread of nuclear weapons.

1978

20 June to 28 July

Experts from the participating States meet in Bonn to prepare the Hamburg Scientific Forum in 1980.

31 October to 11 December

First Meeting of Experts on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes is held in Montreux, Switzerland.

1979

13 February to 26 March

Experts meet in Valetta, Malta to discuss Economic, Scientific and Cultural Co-operation in the Mediterranean.

June

United States and the Soviet Union sign the SALT II agreement in Vienna.

December

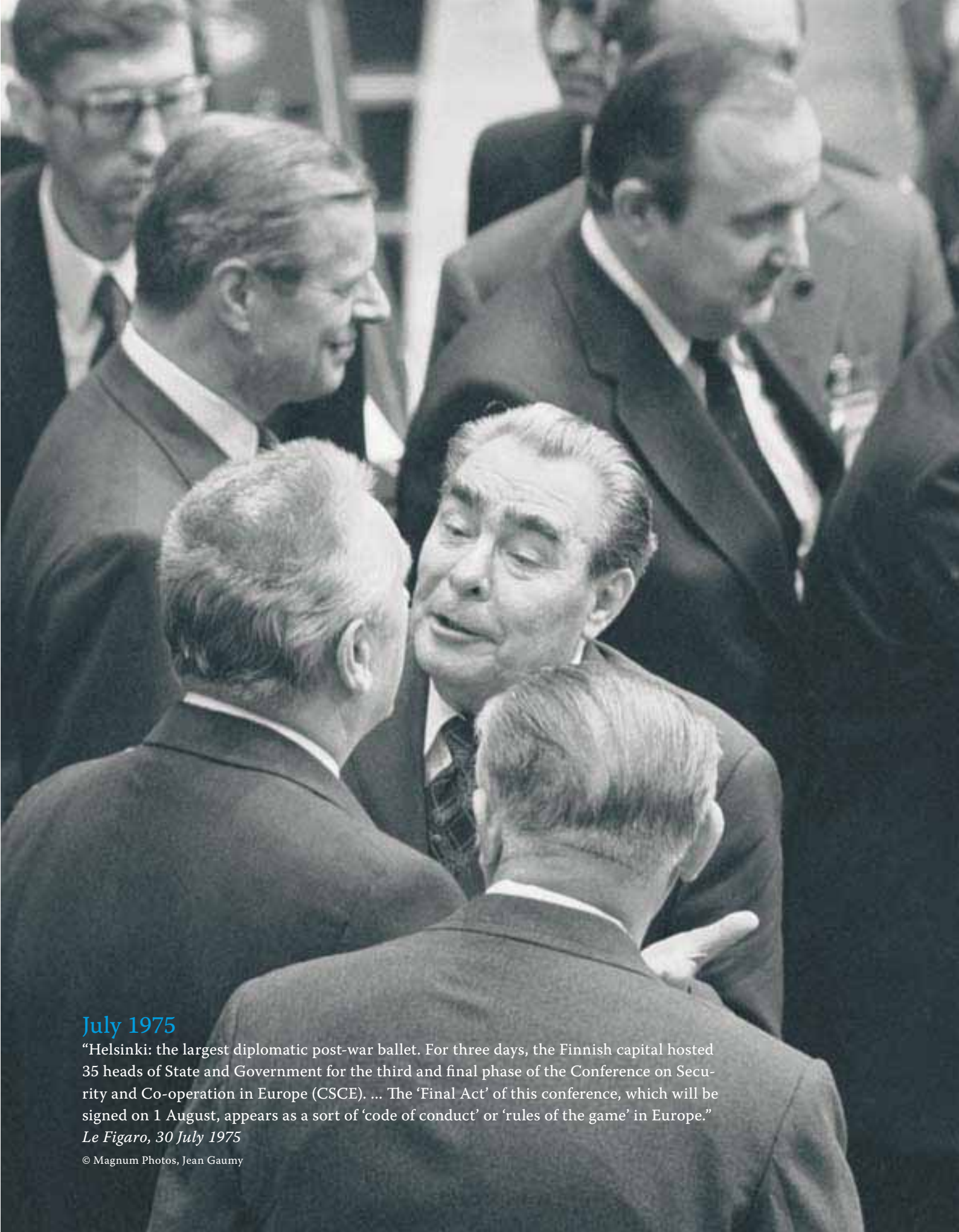
Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.

“If the Soviet Union and the United States can reach agreement so that our astronauts can fit together the most intricate scientific equipment, work together, and shake hands 137 miles out in space, we as statesmen have an obligation to do as well on Earth. History will judge this Conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow – not by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep.”

Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America

“The Conference has proved to be a useful school of international politics for the participating States – particularly useful in our time, when incredible means of destruction and annihilation exist. The powerful impetus provided by this meeting of leaders of 35 States participating in the Conference is intended to help everyone in and beyond Europe to live in peace.”

Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics



July 1975

“Helsinki: the largest diplomatic post-war ballet. For three days, the Finnish capital hosted 35 heads of State and Government for the third and final phase of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). ... The ‘Final Act’ of this conference, which will be signed on 1 August, appears as a sort of ‘code of conduct’ or ‘rules of the game’ in Europe.”

Le Figaro, 30 July 1975

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