

Mr. Anibal CAVACO SILVA (Prime Minister, Portugal) (interpretation from French): Mr. Chairman, in the first place I would like to thank France, in the person of the President of the French Republic, for the hospitality with which it has welcomed us all and which will certainly contribute to the success of this Summit.

The conditions indeed seem to me to be satisfactory for such a success.

We are witnessing a rapid speeding up of the progress of history, unthinkable a year or two ago, and which is displayed by a deep change in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe through peaceful and democratic revolutions made possible by the determination of their peoples and by the courage and vision of the leaders who have since emerged.

The unification of Germany and the emergence of societies which recognize the system of pluralistic democracy, of a market economy, of respect for human rights and for fundamental liberties, as well as the strengthening of the process of European integration, are the most apparent and revealing aspects of the changes which have occurred.

This is a period of hope, which is opening for all the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as for all Europeans.

These changes, which we are living through also mean that the time has come to define the precise rules in order to strengthen security and to adapt the Helsinki Final Act which fifteen years ago marked the beginning of a process of co-operation essential in Europe which was then divided, and to adapt it to new circumstances.

Indeed, I note that the present time requires various actions to be carried out simultaneously. In the first place I believe that the solidarity of Europeans and North Americans is important in order to guarantee stability and security.

Mr. Cavaco Silva

Next, it is important to draw the guidelines of a new Europe which will forget the divisions of the past, which will be a freer and more prosperous place and where we will all be able to share the same values.

It is this new Europe, this new European identity which we are helping to build at this meeting. Finally, we must bear in mind the image we project in the world, and the responsibilities which we assume in the face of the international community.

The end of the cold war, disarmament, rethinking geostrategy and increased co-operation in various domains create legitimate expectations and require of Europeans and North Americans alike the definition of structures of co-operation in political, economic and security fields, which are not only easily perceptible by our own public opinion but also clearly understood by other peoples.

We must know how to give suitable answers to the whole of the international community, which has the most varied expressions of a multipolar world, so that the example of European understanding may inspire other regions and draw the lines of a renewed North-South dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, the role played by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe is undeniable in unfolding this new period of hope in which we live.

The spirit of the Final Act of Helsinki is today still a good reference point for all Europeans. Increasingly, the evolutionary process then initiated, encompassing almost all the possible fields of relationship between States, is today seen as the correct framework from which to view the bases of a new understanding which we all want for our countries.

During the last few years we have achieved considerable progress in the fields of human dimension, economic co-operation, the environment, and in the Mediterranean region.

This morning, we signed two historic documents which on the one hand mark a first, significant step in the reduction and limitation of conventional armaments and, on the other, the end of confrontation between members of the two military alliances.

We shall finally approve at this Summit a Final Document which definitively consolidates the heritage of Helsinki and the CSCE, stabilizing the progress attained. It is possibly the beginning of a new cycle in European history and of the relationship between Europe and the United States and Canada.

It is important that we should be able to reiterate here the will of a common destiny, to ensure the lines of a harmonious development in the future of the CSCE, and also to make concrete commitments as regards the lawful State, human rights and the protections of minorities, democratic pluralism, free enterprise and a market economy.

This is, in fact, the accent of the first part of the Final Document of the Summit which goes hand in hand with the commitment to uphold friendly relations between the 34 countries and the refusal to make confrontations, essential conditions for the reinforcement of co-operation.

I want to believe that German unification is the first concrete expression of this new spirit and a cornerstone of the building of trust which we are now constructing.

As regards military security, the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe and the Document on NCSEMs open up new ways and new perspectives for ensuing negotiations.

By reducing the factors of instability and threat these negotiations allow us to have justified hope in substantial future progress in arms control, the consequences of which go far beyond our countries and are the concern of interest to mankind.

Mr. Cavaco Silva

Equally indispensable is the development of the concept of the human dimension, essential for increased co-operation between our countries and for which we should draw up more ambitious targets. The problem of minorities and the protection of their identity should also merit our careful attention in the near future.

When mentioning these subjects, which are linked to the essential aspects of human rights, the supremacy of law and pluralistic democracy, I should also like to stress the contribution of the Council of Europe whose experience should be a source of inspiration and a point of reference to us all.

Mr. Chairman, Portugal, together with the other States, has defended that the efficacy of the CSCE process is due to its flexibility, to the fact that it has known how to avoid duplication with other existing fora and to its essentially pragmatic structures.

Therefore, I believe that the decision to institutionalize flexible structures to contribute towards the consolidation and enrichment of trust and of our future co-operation, is a realistic one.

These regular summit meetings, the creation of a mechanism for political consultation and the establishment of a small supporting secretariat are sensible measures at this present time. Similarly, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Centre for Prevention of Conflicts and the mechanism to observe elections may constitute instruments of great usefulness for the greater involvement of parliamentarians and of public opinion of our countries, for the reinforcement of trust and a useful exchange of experiences as regards the operation of democratic institutions.

Mr. Chairman, like all of us at this Summit, I too, would like to end on a note of hope and optimism.

Hope for the fulfilment of the commitments we, Europeans and North Americans have made and which guarantee that the end of this century will be freer and more prosperous and that prospects for the 21st century will be even more promising.

Optimism in the spirit of co-operation and trust which binds us and which we should know how to convey to the people of other continents. Africans, Latin Americans and Asians expect from us an expression of solidarity, a clear sign that there are new forms of dialogue and co-operation.

Therefore, I am confident that the model of the new Europe we have decided for the future will inspire a new phase in the history of mankind.