Consistent with the principles contained in the Helsinki Final Act, which guide our mutual relations, we, the Foreign Ministers of the participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), meeting in New York, join the United Nations in condemning Iraq’s invasion and occupation of Kuwait. These actions jeopardize the just and peaceful world order to which more co-operative European relations are making an important contribution.

We call upon the Government of Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait immediately and without conditions. Seeking a peaceful solution, we support fully all of the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council and are determined to ensure their full and effective implementation.

We express our support for those countries that have particularly suffered because of the crisis created by Iraq and reaffirm our determination to work together to ensure that the burdens of standing against aggression are shouldered equitably by all.

We wish to contribute to the security and welfare in the area, in order to foster peace, tolerance, stability, and economic co-operation and development, and therefore we are determined to support efforts aimed at resolving the conflicts there and attaining a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

New York, 2 October 1990
(1) Foreign Ministers of the thirty-five States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe met in New York 1-2 October 1990 to review progress on preparations for a meeting of their heads of State and government in Paris. This was the first meeting of the CSCE ever held in the United States.

(2) Ministers attached great importance to the comprehensive nature of the CSCE process, which brings together the peoples and governments of Europe, the United States, and Canada. The CSCE process proved its vitality in the difficult years of East/West confrontation and mistrust, and has developed into an important foundation for the new Europe. In the new era of relations among CSCE States, the objectives set out in Helsinki in 1975 have been realized to a degree unforeseen even a few years ago. Ministers agreed that the role of the CSCE must be enhanced to respond to new opportunities for co-operation.

(3) In that connection, Ministers discussed the work of the CSCE Paris Summit Preparatory Committee, which has been meeting in Vienna since 10 July. Their discussion reflected a convergence of views regarding the scope and objectives of the Paris Summit Meeting, and the major new steps which are now possible for the CSCE process. They expressed the hope that through the elimination of tension and the growth of co-operation the CSCE countries will be able to make an even greater contribution to the lessening of tensions in other parts of the world.

(4) Ministers approved the Agenda for the Paris Summit, which is annexed to this communique. They agreed that the Summit would take place as planned on 19-21 November 1990. However, they recognized that it was considered essential that a Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe be ready for signature at that time. They also expressed the hope that the Summit would endorse a set of substantial confidence- and security-building measures.

(5) Ministers welcomed the Treaty on the final settlement with respect to Germany, noting it as a historic step toward a Europe whole and free. Ministers were unanimous in acknowledging that German unification is an important contribution to stability, co-operation, and unity in Europe.

(6) Ministers expressed their profound gratitude to the people and Government of the United States for the excellent organization of the New York Meeting and the warm hospitality extended to the participants in the Meeting.

New York, 2 October 1990