

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Geneva

COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE
Genève

ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
Женева

**REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE ECE ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Geneva, 13 – 15 November 1979

**RAPPORT DE LA REUNION A HAUT NIVEAU, DANS LE CADRE
DE LA CEE, SUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

Genève, 13 – 15 novembre 1979

**ДОКЛАД СОВЕЩАНИЯ НА ВЫСОКОМ УРОВНЕ В РАМКАХ
ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ ЕЭК ПО**

Женева, 13–15 ноября 1979

Volume II

Том II



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

NEW YORK, 1980

NOTE

**Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.
Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.**

NOTE

**Les cotes des documents de L'Organisation des Nations Unies se composent de lettres majuscules et de chiffres.
La simple mention d'une cote dans un texte indique qu'il s'agit d'un document de l'Organisation.**

ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ

Условные обозначения документов Организации Объединенных Наций состоят из прописных букв и цифр. Когда такое обозначение встречается в тексте, оно означает ссылку на один из документов Организации Объединенных Наций.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume I

Report of the High-level Meeting within the Framework of the ECE on the Protection of the Environment

ANNEXES

- I. Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
- II. Resolution on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
- III. Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes

Volume II

- IV. Texts of statements made by representatives at the High-level Meeting
- V. Texts of messages received during the High-level Meeting

TABLE DES MATIERES

Volume I

Rapport de la Réunion à haut niveau, dans le cadre de la CEE, sur la protection de l'environnement

ANNEXES

- I. Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance
- II. Résolution sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance
- III. Déclaration sur les techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets et la réutilisation et le recyclage des déchets

Volume II

- IV. Textes des déclarations faites par les représentants à la Réunion à haut niveau
- V. Textes des messages reçus pendant la Réunion à haut niveau

СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

Том I

Доклад Совещания на высоком уровне в рамках ЕЭК по охране окружающей среды

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ

- I. Конвенция о трансграничном загрязнении воздуха на большие расстояния
- II. Резолюция о трансграничном загрязнении воздуха на большие расстояния
- III. Декларация о малоотходной и безотходной технологии и использовании отходов

Том II

- IV. Тексты заявлений, сделанных представителями на Сессии на высоком уровне
- V. Тексты посланий, полученных в ходе Сессии на высоком уровне

ANNEX IV

TEXTS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

The texts of the statements made by representatives at the High-level Meeting within the Framework of the ECE on the Protection of the Environment are reproduced in the present annex, in the order in which they were made:

Switzerland
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Ireland
Belgium
Norway
France
German Democratic Republic
Netherlands
Poland
Germany, Federal Republic of
Finland
Hungary
Luxembourg
Canada
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Czechoslovakia
United Nations Environment Programme
Liechtenstein
Spain
Bulgaria
Denmark
Austria
Romania
United States of America
Sweden
Yugoslavia
Italy
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Portugal
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Iceland
Greece
European Economic Community
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
Council of Europe
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
World Health Organization
Malta
Inter-Parliamentary Union
World Meteorological Organization
Holy See

ANNEXE IV

TEXTES DES DECLARATIONS FAITES PAR LES REPRESENTANTS A LA REUNION A HAUT NIVEAU

Les textes des déclarations faites par les représentants à la Réunion à haut niveau, dans le cadre de la CEE, sur la protection de l'environnement sont reproduits dans cette annexe dans l'ordre de leurs interventions :

Suisse
Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques
Irlande
Belgique
Norvège
France
République démocratique allemande
Pays-Bas
Pologne
Allemagne, République fédérale d'
Finlande
Hongrie
Luxembourg
Canada
Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord
Tchécoslovaquie
Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement
Liechtenstein
Espagne
Bulgarie
Danemark
Autriche
Roumanie
Etats-Unis d'Amérique
Suède
Yougoslavie
Italie
République socialiste soviétique de Biélorussie
Portugal
République socialiste soviétique d'Ukraine
Islande
Grèce
Communauté économique européenne
Conseil d'aide économique mutuelle
Conseil de l'Europe
Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques
Organisation mondiale de la santé
Malte
Union interparlementaire
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Saint-Siège

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ IV

ТЕКСТЫ ЗАЯВЛЕНИЙ, СДЕЛАННЫХ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЯМИ НА
СОВЕЩАНИИ НА ВЫСОКОМ УРОВНЕ

Тексты заявлений, сделанных представителями, расположены в настоящем приложении в том порядке, в каком они выступили на Совещании на высоком уровне в рамках ЕЭК по охране окружающей среды:

Швейцария
Союз Советских Социалистических Республик
Ирландия
Бельгия
Норвегия
Франция
Германская Демократическая Республика
Нидерланды
Польша
Федеративная Республика Германия
Финляндия
Венгрия
Люксембург
Канада
Соединенное Королевство Великобритании и Северной Ирландии
Чехословакия
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде
Лихтенштейн
Испания
Болгария
Дания
Австрия
Румыния
Соединенные Штаты Америки
Швеция
Югославия
Италия
Белорусская Советская Социалистическая Республика
Португалия
Украинская Советская Социалистическая Республика
Исландия
Греция
Комиссия европейских сообществ
Совет Экономической Взаимопомощи
Европейский совет
Организация экономического сотрудничества и развития
Всемирная организация здравоохранения
Мальта
Межпарламентский союз
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
Святейший Престол

SWITZERLAND
SUISSE
ШВЕЙЦАРИЯ

(M. H. Hürlimann, Conseiller fédéral, Chef du Département fédéral suisse de l'intérieur)

En ma qualité de représentant du pays hôte de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, j'ai l'honneur de vous souhaiter, au nom du Gouvernement suisse, une cordiale bienvenue dans notre pays. Je tiens aussi à vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, ainsi que Monsieur le Vice-Président, de votre élection au bureau de cette conférence. En vous adressant ces vœux, je souhaite que vous trouviez à Genève, une fois de plus, un climat propice au développement de ce vaste mouvement de coopération entre nos divers pays, dont la Commission économique pour l'Europe a fait - et je tiens à lui en rendre hommage - l'objectif essentiel de son activité.

Objectif sans doute hautement prioritaire, qui a permis de faire d'un continent d'abord meurtri, puis longtemps cloisonné, une aire de meilleure compréhension dans la recherche de solutions à des problèmes qui, au fil des années, sont devenus de plus en plus complexes.

En signant l'Acte final d'Helsinki, les Hauts Représentants des Etats parties à la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe ont conféré à cette démarche de coopération intra-européenne une dimension nouvelle. La Commission économique pour l'Europe, en se faisant l'un des instruments de mise en oeuvre de cet Acte final, a offert à ses membres la chance de tirer le plus large bénéfice des perspectives nouvelles de resserrer des liens d'étroite coopération.

C'est l'une de ces chances que nous allons précisément saisir aujourd'hui. Je m'en félicite. D'une part, je vois dans cette Réunion l'expression concrète de notre volonté commune d'œuvrer à la réalisation des engagements pris à Helsinki. D'autre part, en choisissant d'approfondir notre coopération dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement, nous répondons manifestement à l'une des préoccupations majeures de notre temps.

Il y a quelque trente ans, la tâche essentielle était de reconstruire l'Europe. Si ce but est aujourd'hui généralement atteint, il a entraîné de nouveaux problèmes. Corollaire du développement économique, la pollution de l'air, des eaux, des sols a fait son apparition. Elle constitue pour les pays industrialisés un problème d'autant plus complexe qu'elle n'a pas été combattue dès la manifestation de ses premiers symptômes, ce qui lui a permis de devenir la menace qu'elle représente aujourd'hui. Les rivières, les fleuves, les lacs, les mers ont servi de poubelles, l'air s'est chargé de tous les rejets polluants, en particulier de ceux causés par le chauffage, le trafic et l'industrie. Mais les situations varient d'un pays à l'autre. Leur position géographique, leurs ressources, leur degré d'industrialisation font que les problèmes de protection de l'environnement ne se posent pas partout avec une égale acuité. Toutefois, le développement économique et l'industrialisation qu'ils recherchent tous contribuent aux atteintes portées à l'environnement en général. Malgré les mesures spécifiques prises par la plupart des Etats pour préserver leur propre environnement, pollutions et nuisances se portent au-delà des frontières nationales. Il incombe dès lors aux institutions chargées de par leurs statuts de traiter des grands problèmes

internationaux, de prendre leurs responsabilités et de passer à l'action. La pollution transfrontière fait partie de ces problèmes; elle représente aujourd'hui davantage qu'un symptôme de maladie. Elle est la conséquence d'un mal profond qui doit être attaqué à sa source si l'on entend en maîtriser les néfastes effets jusque dans des régions qui semblaient être à l'abri de cette pollution, en raison des distances considérables auxquelles elles se trouvent de tout centre de production industrielle.

Cette manifestation de pollution transfrontière constitue un signe avertisseur qui ne doit pas être pris à la légère. La complexité du phénomène implique la mise en oeuvre d'une intense coopération internationale, tant au plan de la recherche, que des enquêtes, des échanges d'informations et des expériences. Et tout ira mieux le jour où, sur la base des enseignements recueillis, il pourra se dégager des politiques communes et harmonisées pour apporter un remède durable à un mal dont les effets préjudiciables sont ressentis seulement à longue distance. De plus, en provoquant une prise de conscience collective de la valeur de nos ressources, ces politiques nous persuaderont de la nécessité de les économiser, tout comme nos autres biens de consommation, jetés aux ordures sans être pleinement exploités. Elles déboucheront, tout naturellement, par une réaction salutaire au gaspillage qui a marqué ces années de croissance économique, sur une gestion rationnelle des déchets, soit par élimination, soit par recyclage. Seules de telles politiques sont à même, en définitive, de réaliser les économies indispensables, tant de matières premières que d'énergie, dont l'urgence vient d'éclater au grand jour.

En signant la Convention sur la pollution transfrontière à longue distance, en adoptant la résolution y afférente et la déclaration sur les techniques peu polluantes, la Suisse est heureuse de s'associer à cette tâche de coopération internationale. Je me plais d'ailleurs à saisir cette occasion pour rendre hommage aux efforts entrepris par l'Union interparlementaire qui, il y a quelques jours seulement, s'est réunie en symposium international dans ce même bâtiment. Cette réunion, organisée en étroite liaison avec la Commission économique pour l'Europe, a témoigné de l'importance que les Parlements de nos pays attachent à la solution du phénomène des polluants, notamment dans les domaines sur lesquels nous sommes ici invités à nous prononcer.

Cette coopération doit prouver que la lutte pour la protection de l'environnement, loin de créer des obstacles aux échanges internationaux comme d'aucuns sont tentés de croire ou de faire accroire, constitue bien au contraire un instrument de rapprochement entre les pays industrialisés qui leur permettra de remplir une de leurs grandes missions, à savoir assurer la sauvegarde des biens essentiels à la survie des générations à venir.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
UNION DES REPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIETIQUES
СОЮЗ СОВЕТСКИХ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКИХ РЕСПУБЛИК

(Mr. V.A. KIRILLIN, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR,
Chairman, State Committee for Science and Technology)

Permit me to address the words of appreciation to the head of the host country, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Hans Hurlimann, and the Government and people of Switzerland who accord us hospitality.

One cannot fail to recognize the large preparatory work directed to the conduct of the All-European High-Level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, which was done by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Janez Stanovnik, and the secretariat working under him.

In its policies in the field of the rational utilization of natural resources and environmental protection the Soviet Union proceeds from the realization of the fact that this global problem is of vital importance not only for the Soviet people but also for the whole of mankind. These issues have been the focus of attention of the Soviet State since its very inception. V.I. Lenin, the founder of our State, attached great importance to the problem of the protection of nature and the rational use of its resources.

The Soviet Union's concern for the environmental protection is organically linked with the general concept of the development of the socialist society. Proper quality of the human environment is regarded in our country as a most important component of people's general well-being, the steady increase of which constitutes the supreme goal of the Soviet State. The factor of decisive significance in this respect is the socialist ownership of the means of production and of the country's natural wealth, as well as planned development of the national economy.

In the Soviet Union, nature is guarded by the State which regulates through legislation the utilization of natural resources and sets down the rules of environmental protection in the interests of the entire people. The environmental problem in our State is considered and being solved as one of the major tasks of the country's socio-economic development. That is evidenced by the decisions passed by the Congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the national legislation of the USSR and of the constituent Union Republics, a whole number of decrees of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government and the new Constitution of the USSR. In particular, Article 18 of the Constitution of the USSR states: "In the interests of the present and future generations, the necessary steps are taken in the USSR to protect and make scientific, rational use of the land and its mineral and water resources, and the plant and animal kingdoms, to preserve the purity of air and water, ensure reproduction of natural wealth, and improve the human environment".

Taking effective measures to protect and improve the environment in our country, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government attach great importance to broadening all-round international co-operation in this area. The Soviet Union proceeds from the understanding that in our age when a whole range of global problems has arisen, broad international co-operation is one of the conditions objectively necessary for their successful settlement. We have been actively

co-operating in the field of environmental protection with the socialist countries, both on bilateral and multilateral bases, within the framework of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance.

The Soviet Union develops co-operation with many industrial and developing countries and takes an active part in the work of the international governmental and non-governmental organizations the aim of which is environmental protection and rational use of natural resources.

The problem of environmental protection has acquired particular acuteness and relevance in Europe, where countries are located with advanced industry and intensive agriculture whose environmental impact is very great indeed. As a recognition of the special importance of this problem for our continent, it had a special section dedicated to it in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. By successful conclusion of this history-making forum, a powerful impulse was given to the development of international co-operation on many a problem essential for Europe, including that of environment.

It is precisely in the context of putting into effect of the provisions of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference that the Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Leonid Brezhnev, put forward a proposal for conducting all-European meetings on co-operation in environmental protection, development of transport and energy.

The principal task of the all-European meetings proposed by our country consists in fostering translation of the accords of principle in the above-mentioned areas into the language of practical deeds, stimulating in this sense increased co-operation among States and thereby setting the most favourable conditions for taking advantage, in the interests of the well-being of the European nations, of the broad new opportunities which opened up as a result of the Helsinki Conference.

The All-European Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, which brought together high representatives of the European countries, the United States and Canada, constitutes an important real step forward towards implementing the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We are convinced that the holding of the meeting raises to a higher level the entire work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and signifies the beginning of a new stage in its activities. We regard the meeting as a step forward in furtherance of fruitful scientific, technological and economic co-operation between the East and the West.

We appreciate highly both the effort accomplished in preparation of the final documents of our meeting and the documents themselves - the Convention and Resolution on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and the Declaration on Low- and Non-Waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes. As the head of the USSR delegation I am authorized by the Soviet Government to sign the Convention and to second the adoption of the Declaration and Resolution.

The Soviet delegation notes with satisfaction that these documents have received general approval of the participants of our meeting, and the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution will be signed by a large number of States.

Since the Convention, as far as we know, is going to be signed, along with the States, also by the European Economic Community, it is pertinent to recall the reservation to this effect made by the Soviet delegation at the thirty-fourth session of the ECE and contained in paragraph 108 of its annual report.

As we see it, the Convention's importance lies in the fact that it is not only directed to reducing the transport of air pollutants across State borders, but also provides a good basis for developing broad all-European co-operation on the integrated problem of control of atmospheric pollution. One should also underline that this implies, in fact, control of the effects of this pollution. Thus the Convention will promote the solution of many aspects of the environmental problem in the ECE region.

As for the Declaration, it also represents, in our view, a document of great interest - and not just for the European States, but also for all countries of the world, including the developing ones, because it summarizes recommendations for the development and implementation of the non-waste technology which will allow us to prevent damage to the environment and to utilize rationally natural resources, including energy resources.

Adoption by our meeting of the Resolution on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution creates conditions to begin work on the implementation of the Convention without waiting for its official entry into force.

It is no accident that our meeting has, as its two principal agenda items, transboundary air pollution and non-waste technology. Both are closely connected with the other aspects of the environmental problem. In this connexion we should like to stress that the achievement at the present stage of specific accords on increased co-operation on these two items does not mean that there are no other environmental problems which deserve consideration at a high governmental level; rather, on the contrary, it presupposes the importance of their discussion in future at similar all-European meetings. In these future discussions primary attention, we believe, should be given to increased co-operation in Europe on the protection and rational use of water resources, protection of flora and fauna, and toxic substances and compounds. These problems include numerous issues which cannot be settled successfully, except by concerted actions of the countries in the ECE region.

With each passing year, the problems of the protection of water basins against pollution and the rational use of water resources become increasingly important. A large number of the rivers in the ECE region flow across the territories of several States, which is why many problems related to the protection of the water basins in the present conditions are no longer only an internal affair of this or that particular country but become an object of common interest and responsibility of the region's States.

In this connexion, the USSR delegation notes the importance of the Declaration of policy on prevention and control of water pollution, including transboundary pollution, now being drafted by the ECE Committee on Water Problems. The Declaration should reflect the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe as well as the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Water Resources.

In the face of the ever increasing anthropogenic pressures, particularly noticeable on the European continent, effective protection of the resources of animate nature - fauna and flora and their habitats - demands substantial national efforts, but also co-ordinated actions on the part of the countries concerned.

One effective way to reach these objectives could be by adoption of appropriate international documents defining the measures to be taken for maintaining ecological stability of the European region and protecting flora and fauna in Europe.

Relative to the problem of toxic substances and compounds, it must be pointed out that for well-grounded decisions of many environmental issues, including those on the agenda of the present meeting, it is essential to develop a system of evaluation of the toxicity and hazardousness of specific chemical compounds and identify the sub-hazardous levels of pollution of environmental objects consistent with the medical and ecological requirements.

We feel therefore that the development of co-operation on the problem of toxic substances and compounds could cover, in particular, the development of a classification of toxicity and hazardousness of various chemical environmental pollutants, elaboration of health standards in respect of pollutants, and unification of the methods to control chemical pollutants. To this end, it could be possible in the future to work out international documents which would provide, among other things, for the institution of special all-European co-operation programmes.

These are our views as to immediate prospects of development of all-European co-operation in the environmental field. We are prepared to listen attentively to the opinions of other delegations in order to find common ways and means towards the solution of the environmental problem in the ECE region.

While addressing ourselves to the protection and improvement of the environment in Europe, we feel it necessary to stress the crucial importance of the conditions which make successful co-operation in this field possible.

It is our deep-felt conviction that these conditions involve practical steps by the States to promote the limitation of armaments race and disarmament, give a deeper and broader scope to the process of détente both world-wide and in the ECE region, and create a more favourable climate for international co-operation.

It is on the way of universal peace and disarmament in the conditions of progressive social, scientific and technological development that lies the possibility for successful solution of the ecological problems for the benefit of the whole mankind.

IRELAND
IRLANDE
ИРЛАНДИЯ

(Mr. S. Barrett, Minister for the Environment for Ireland, who also spoke on behalf of the European Economic Community)

As this meeting takes place during the period of the Irish Presidency of the European Economic Community, it is my privilege to speak for the Community, as well as for my own country.

The Community welcomes this High Level Meeting, the first of its kind to be held in the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe. Through this Meeting, and the decisions to be made here, we look forward to a significant strengthening within the ECE of the collaboration of member States in the protection of the environment. In a wider perspective, this Meeting will also serve as a contribution towards the full and balanced implementation of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, an objective which is of paramount importance to all our Governments.

This Meeting has been a considerable time in preparation. I am sure that all of us would agree that the documents before the Meeting for consideration are ample justification of the in-depth preparatory work. We are all aware of the detailed discussions that went into the elaboration of these texts. It is a tribute to the goodwill of all involved and to the constructive search for realistic solutions to the problems encountered that this Meeting is taking place.

In this decade, the attention of our peoples has been drawn increasingly to environmental conditions. Public awareness has been heightened, not only by events such as the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, but also by the signs - in different forms and degrees - of pressures on the environment which are to be seen everywhere.

As the pressures have grown so have the efforts to deal with them. National actions have resulted in better provision for physical planning, in improved conditions and standards, in new procedures for environmental screening of projects and in the evolution of the polluter pays principle. The causes and extent of public concern may vary from one country to another and may affect the pace of action, but the direction in which all are moving is clearly to be seen.

The important principle that actions in one State should not cause damage to the environment in another was formally recognized and endorsed in the United Nations Conference of 1972. Gradually, the full implications of the international character of certain environmental resources, which are part of the very life support system, have come to be recognized.

There is increasing realization that, while nothing can be achieved without resolute action within individual countries, something more is needed if the international conditions afflicting the environment are to be dealt with effectively. This is a measure of the importance of this gathering, and, in particular, of the International Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution which we have just adopted.

It is a measure also of the importance of the Action Programme on the Environment of the European Community. The general aim of the Action Programme, which was first adopted in 1973 and extended in 1977, is to improve the setting and quality of life and the surroundings and living conditions of our peoples. This requires the prevention, reduction and, as far as possible, the elimination of pollution and of nuisances. A number of measures adopted under the programme and other proposals at present under consideration have a bearing on the topics which we will be discussing here over the next few days.

The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution is a timely as well as an important document. Pollution by sulphur dioxide is among the most widespread and serious aspects of international air pollution. It is imperative that there should be development in international co-operation on a scale to match the movement of the pollutant. Planning to deal with sulphur dioxide is particularly difficult at the present time because of uncertainties with regard to energy sources and supplies. We must be ready to adapt our plans and priorities to the changing circumstances but this is not a reason for holding back in our environmental concern.

The Community sees the Convention as an important step forward and it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Community as well as its member States will sign the Convention in the course of this Meeting. With regard to the comments made by the previous speaker I wish to state that Article 14 of the Convention clearly and unambiguously provides for signature by the Community. I would remind delegates that this was formally stated by the Community Presidency at the thirty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe. The Community welcomes and supports in particular, the basic provisions of the Convention - the undertaking to endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually to reduce and prevent air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution; the development of relevant policies and strategies by means such as the exchange of information, research and development and monitoring; the development of air quality management systems and of consultation between States affected by pollution and those in which the pollution originates.

As party to the Convention, the Community will play its full part in its implementation. The successful implementation of the Convention will depend on the correct monitoring of the origins and movement of pollutants. The Community welcomes the monitoring arrangements envisaged in the text. The existing Co-operative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe now assumes increased importance and deserves full support. The Community is in favour of the work relating to that programme being drawn on as fully as possible in the implementation of the Convention.

The Community also supports the associated Resolution dealing with such matters as the need for early action on foot of the Convention, the provision of suitable secretarial arrangements, and the aim of bringing about closer liaison in relation to policies and strategies.

The aims of the Declaration on Low and Non-Waste Technology and on Re-utilization and Re-cycling of Wastes are preventive - they are concerned with reducing the volumes of waste arising and the quantities requiring disposal. These concepts, apart from serving environmental purposes, are now seen to serve also the needs of energy and resources conservation.

At a meeting earlier this year the Community Ministers acknowledged the importance of clean technology and of its promotion by means such as modifying production processes and increasing the value of by-products. The Ministers directed that a number of particular aspects be examined, taking account of work currently in progress in the Economic Commission for Europe with a view to development of specific proposals.

The Community therefore, is happy to support the Declaration and will continue to give close attention both to the promotion of technology which is environmentally sensitive and to the prevention and re-cycling of wastes.

I now intend to offer a few comments on other matters.

The international importance of the programme of work in the ECE, which the Group of Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems has in hand, is rightly recognized. There is common ground at various points between this programme and work in the European Economic Community. Control of water pollution, for example, is a matter on which special emphasis is placed in the Community Action Programme on the Environment.

Measures have been adopted to control discharges to the aquatic environment; to protect ground water, and to achieve or protect necessary qualities for waters intended for various uses. Attention is being directed towards the water pollution problems associated with particular kinds of industry and with spillage of oils at sea. Provision for communication and consultation between member States where questions of transboundary pollution are concerned are a common feature in Community measures. The Community is active in the work of international organizations dealing with water pollution and is party to a number of international conventions on the subject.

The Community has a major commitment, therefore, to development of an effective system for the protection of the aquatic environment and will continue to play its part in wider efforts to prevent and control water pollution.

The Community recognizes the need to protect flora and fauna, and their habitats. The Community is associated with a number of international Conventions, and has itself adopted a measure providing for the protection of certain species of birds and their habitats. This is an area which is the subject of on-going work in a number of international organizations already. It is to be hoped that the extent of the existing work will be taken fully into account before deciding whether any extension into this area in the programme of the Senior Advisers is desirable or necessary.

Mr. Natali, Vice President of the Commission of the European Communities, who will be intervening in the general debate tomorrow, on behalf of the European Community will, no doubt, be commenting on these and other matters.

I would also like to make the point that environmental measures must be considered in conjunction with economic and social policies. It is not merely that there are links between economic and environmental aims in such matters as resource conservation and production efficiency or even in the provision of employment. What I am concerned with is that there are variations between countries in environmental conditions and capacities as there are in economic and regional conditions. Both economic and environmental programmes must be tailored accordingly and be in harmony.

Speaking on behalf of my own country, there has been considerable intensification of development in Ireland in recent years. This process must continue if the levelling out of regional disparities - which is an aim of Community policy - is to be achieved. We are glad to see recognized in the Convention the relevance of balanced development.

Environmental resources in Ireland are generally in good condition, but with a steadily increasing population, it is likely that pressures will increase in the years ahead. Our aim in policy-making and legislation is to provide a framework within which the necessary economic and social development may be pursued in an environmentally sound way.

We fully realize that in certain respects the future of our environment in Ireland depends less on what we do ourselves than on actions in other areas, and the effects of such actions on the regional and global resources. We are glad, therefore, to join, in association with our fellow member States of the Community, in these discussions and in particular, to sign the Convention and approve the Resolution as well as the Declaration, in the interests of progress towards the better management of the problems of the international environment.

BEIGIUM
BELGIQUE
БЕЛГИЯ

(M. L. Dhoore, Ministre belge de la santé publique et de l'environnement)

C'est au cours de sa trente-quatrième session qu'au sein de la Commission économique pour l'Europe fut conclu un accord concernant la convocation de la présente Réunion à haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement.

Je voudrais exprimer dès à présent l'intérêt profond que mon pays attache à participer à cette réunion. Le cadre dans lequel cette réunion se tient, les sujets qui seront traités, la signature d'une Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique à longue distance, ainsi que les diverses initiatives qui ont concouru à son organisation expliquent ce sentiment.

Je n'exagère pas en affirmant que la présente réunion est un aboutissement en même temps qu'un point de départ et qu'elle marquera une étape nouvelle dans l'acheminement vers une gestion efficace de l'environnement international.

Des rapports alarmants concernant la viabilité de la société future ainsi que le fait qu'un nombre croissant d'habitants de notre planète furent confrontés à des formes diverses de pollutions et de dégradations de l'environnement incitèrent dès la fin des années soixante nombre d'organisations internationales à réfléchir au problème de la nécessité d'établir des règles communes pour tenter de protéger la santé de l'homme et assainir son environnement.

La Conférence de Stockholm organisée en 1972 par les Nations Unies sur l'environnement humain jeta les bases d'une nouvelle politique en matière d'environnement en adoptant une Déclaration commune et en publiant un plan contenant 106 propositions concrètes.

Trois ans plus tard, en 1975, les participants à la Conférence d'Helsinki concernant la sécurité et la coopération en Europe firent insérer dans l'Acte final un passage traitant de la protection de l'environnement.

Entre-temps, le Conseil des communautés européennes, dans sa déclaration du 22 novembre 1973 concernant un programme d'action des communautés européennes en matière d'environnement, avait reconnu que la prévention, la réduction et, dans la mesure du possible, la suppression de la pollution représentaient l'un des objectifs de la politique communautaire en matière d'environnement.

La présente réunion s'inscrit dans cette ligne-là en faisant application des mêmes principes.

En même temps cette réunion marque un nouveau point de départ dans la mesure où elle permet la conclusion par tous les Etats de l'Europe de la première Convention en matière de protection de l'environnement, du premier instrument juridique contraignant, visant à promouvoir la coopération internationale en vue de combattre la pollution de l'air et les effets de cette pollution sur la santé de l'homme et sur son environnement.

En élaborant les documents qui nous seront soumis aujourd'hui la Commission économique pour l'Europe a contribué à l'application de l'Acte final de la Conférence d'Helsinki.

Il est d'autre part particulièrement réjouissant de constater dans ces documents le souci de concilier le développement économique et la protection de l'environnement. Il est également réjouissant de voir l'importance accordée aux mesures préventives comme étant le meilleur moyen d'éviter les dégradations causées par les activités de l'homme à son environnement.

On ne peut en effet nier que c'est l'homme qui constitue le danger majeur pour son environnement. Beaucoup de ses activités aussi louable que soit leur but ne tiennent souvent pas ou trop peu compte du fait qu'elles risquent de troubler les équilibres écologiques. Devant l'ampleur que prennent certains de ces déséquilibres et devant les dégradations de l'environnement qu'ils suscitent, des mesures curatives s'imposent de toute évidence.

Il est néanmoins clair qu'une politique préventive en matière d'environnement sera plus efficace et même économiquement plus rentable. Une telle politique permet en effet d'éviter dès l'origine la création de pollutions ou de nuisances plutôt que de combattre après coup leurs effets néfastes.

Une politique préventive suppose aussi qu'on évalue, aussitôt que possible, les incidences que pourront avoir différents types d'activités humaines sur l'environnement. L'environnement étant une dimension commune à toute chose, à toute activité, on ne saurait comprendre que certaines d'entre elles ne fassent pas l'objet de l'attention environnementale.

Le problème est bien entendu complexe, et il représente un retour à une considération horizontale d'un ensemble de secteurs que nous étions habitués à traiter séparément pour notre facilité et qui ont fini par se cloisonner. Nous devons avoir le courage d'affronter ce défi qui est le défi réel de l'environnement, et de ce courage dépendra la réussite ou la faillite de notre politique.

Une politique réelle de l'environnement doit être une politique intégrant tous les effets de nos actes, y compris ceux qu'il nous déplaît aujourd'hui encore de regarder en face, d'envisager en toute sérénité, car ils exigent de nous des efforts ou même des renoncements.

D'autre part, tout en refusant de faire de l'écologie pour l'écologie, il faut se garder d'opposer les activités économiques et les progrès techniques à la protection de l'environnement. A long terme en effet les intérêts économiques et écologiques ne sont pas nécessairement contradictoires mais se complètent mutuellement. N'oublie-t-on pas trop souvent le poids énorme que représente pour l'économie le coût des mesures curatives destinées à éliminer ou à mitiger des dégradations à l'environnement et qu'on aurait pu éviter en utilisant certaines techniques moins polluantes, peut-être plus chères à court terme, mais qui à long terme s'avèreraient profitables.

Harmoniser ces deux intérêts nécessite à la fois l'établissement d'un système de normes et de réglementations; mais avant tout il nécessite une prise de conscience et un changement dans le comportement des dirigeants et des populations concernés.

La réalisation d'un tel objectif nécessite, outre la prévision, la coordination et le contrôle, également l'information, la formation et la concertation y compris avec l'opinion publique.

La gestion efficace des déchets constitue une illustration frappante de ces principes. Le problème des déchets, qu'ils soient d'origine industrielle ou domestique, est symptomatique pour la société et le mode de vie qui sont les nôtres.

Les années soixante, période d'expansion économique sans limite, furent caractérisées par une antinomie et un déséquilibre apparents entre les intérêts économiques et écologiques.

En agissant comme si la qualité de la vie était uniquement fonction du développement économique nous avons négligé de prendre en compte toutes les incidences du développement économique.

Concrètement, le fait de mesurer le progrès aux quantités de biens produits et mis sur le marché a fini par nous faire oublier qu'il existe à côté de cette production un autre type de production négative de déchets, d'effluents liquides ou gazeux qui constituent un danger pour la santé de l'homme et pour son environnement.

Les nuisances qui en découlent et le coût des mesures curatives prises en vue d'éliminer ces nuisances ont contribué à une prise de conscience à l'échelle internationale des responsables politiques et du public concerné.

La crise économique, la pénurie de certaines matières premières nous ont d'autre part amenés à définir de nouveaux objectifs en matière de gestion des déchets, à savoir le souci d'éviter le gaspillage de matières premières et d'énergie, et la nécessité d'utiliser d'autres techniques pour produire autrement.

La gestion pratique en matière de déchets ne s'articule plus uniquement autour de la mise en oeuvre a posteriori de mesures curatives. Elle s'est axée elle aussi sur la prévention.

La première action à envisager en matière de politique de déchets est en effet la prévention; il est nécessaire de prévenir la production de déchets tant domestiques qu'industriels. Cette prévention réclame un changement de comportement de la part des producteurs et des usagers, changement de comportement qui doit être soutenu par des dispositions législatives et réglementaires établissant des normes de produits et visant à économiser les matières premières et les normes d'énergie. Ces normes tendront à promouvoir l'utilisation de techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets.

En second lieu, il faut envisager le traitement des déchets car la meilleure prévention ne les supprimera pas tous. Les déchets étant produits, il existe néanmoins un second stade préventif, celui qui vise à éviter les pertes de matières premières récupérables. Les textes de loi doivent donc prévoir à cet effet la collecte sélective, le triage en usine de traitement, la récupération, le recyclage. Les mesures appropriées doivent encourager l'usage de matériaux et de formes d'énergie récupérée ou recyclée ainsi.

Restent alors les résidus qui ne se prêtent pas ou difficilement à la récupération ou au recyclage; il convient bien sûr de les éliminer par d'autres moyens dans les meilleures conditions de sécurité de manière à ne pas nuire à la santé de l'homme et à son environnement.

La mise en oeuvre d'une telle politique préventive suppose une planification à moyen terme afin de connaître les données diverses du problème à traiter. Elle suppose aussi un effort accru de formation, d'information et de concertation afin de provoquer ce changement de comportement de la part des individus, des familles, des groupes et de la société, nécessaire pour la réussite d'une politique préventive en matière de déchets.

Le fait que la présente réunion se tient dans le cadre d'une organisation telle que la Commission économique pour l'Europe démontre que les problèmes en matière d'environnement ont une dimension internationale.

Il faut bien se rendre à l'évidence que certaines formes de nuisances et de pollutions ne connaissent pas de frontières. Une action curative entreprise individuellement et sans concertation par chaque Etat est vouée à un échec certain. La même constatation est valable pour les actions préventives en matière de pollution.

Ceci est particulièrement vrai pour des formes de nuisances, telles que la pollution de l'eau et la pollution atmosphérique. Au fur et à mesure que progressent les études concernant la qualité de l'air ambiant, on constate qu'on trouve des polluants provenant d'activités industrielles ou de processus de combustion, dans des régions où il n'existe aucune source d'émission. Il est donc clair que les polluants peuvent voyager à travers de longues distances. Nous ne sommes pour l'instant que partiellement en mesure de décrire la façon précise dont se déroule ce processus, et l'on ignore encore quelles fractions de ces émissions peuvent se déplacer à de telles distances.

C'est là que réside, à mon avis, l'importance de la Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique à longue distance qui a été élaborée dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe. Le but de la Convention est en effet double : d'une part elle a obligé les Etats signataires à prendre des mesures afin de limiter la pollution atmosphérique, en ce compris la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance; d'autre part l'échange d'informations et la consultation prévus par cette Convention doivent permettre d'arriver à une meilleure compréhension du phénomène de la pollution atmosphérique à longue distance, ce qui permettra dès lors de mieux lutter contre cette forme de pollution.

La Belgique, qui dispose déjà de moyens légaux et matériels pour contrôler la qualité de l'air et combattre la pollution atmosphérique, est tout à fait disposée à marquer son accord sur les principes et les objectifs énoncés dans la Convention. Mon pays souhaite vivement que les efforts soient poursuivis sans tarder afin d'étendre le champ d'application de telles conventions à d'autres polluants atmosphériques et que les résolutions internationales soient orientées vers un renforcement normatif.

La Belgique signera cette Convention en même temps que les communautés européennes.

En organisant cette Réunion à haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement, la Commission économique pour l'Europe témoigne du souci de la communauté internationale à promouvoir la qualité de la vie en protégeant notre patrimoine environnemental européen. Je tiens à rendre hommage à la clairvoyance des responsables de la Commission économique pour l'Europe et de tous ceux qui ont consenti des efforts pour tenter d'améliorer le monde dans lequel nous vivons. Qu'on ait choisi pour cela la voie de la coopération me semble la meilleure garantie de succès.

NORWAY
NORVEGE
НОРВЕГИЯ

(Mr. R. Hansen, Minister of the Environment of Norway)

My Government welcomes this meeting, both because we believe it will lead to a strengthening of working relationships in a regional context, and because it provides us with the possibility of together intensifying our efforts, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference, in a field of major concern, namely the task of protecting our environment.

The decision regarding air pollution, which we are taking at this meeting, is an important step forward because it gives legal international recognition to the problem of long range transport of air pollution and acid rain, and constitutes a solemn commitment to co-ordinate national actions for the purpose of combating one of the most important environmental problems with which we are faced at present. The task ahead of us, is to convert this commitment into practical policies and actions for the purpose of reducing the relevant emissions of air pollutants.

We all recognize that with the present concern for employment and energy supply problems, an improvement in the acid rain situation can only be gradual. But our peoples are not only concerned with economic development - they also wish for an improved quality of life. And the quality of life is, among other things, dependent upon our ability to reduce pollution which, as in the case of sulphur compounds, is harmful to human health, and affects aquatic ecosystems, forests and the architectural heritage.

I do not suggest that we shall be able to solve the acid rain problem immediately. National and international research efforts have, however, established that measures to deal with sulphur pollution can only be fully effective if they are co-ordinated at the European and North American level. Our first and most important task, therefore, is to start a process which can lead to improved co-ordination of national pollution control policies. I stress the word national, because I do not believe that in general it will be necessary to develop a full harmonization of air pollution policies, in the ECE region, in order to combat long range transboundary air pollution.

Our immediate priority should be to avoid a further deterioration with respect to long range air pollution. In the longer term, our aim must be to secure a genuine and lasting improvement, with respect to air pollution problems of international concern. We have already agreed in the Convention to direct special attention towards new installations and emission sources with a view to using the best available and economically acceptable technology.

I believe that all of us are willing to implement such a programme of work. Certainly, the people in all our countries will benefit, if this is the case. Let us, above all, avoid unnecessary delays. Let us state our concerns and difficulties frankly. Let us also use our national and joint research resources for the purpose of making progress and not postpone necessary decisions.

We must ensure that the officials who will be responsible for the follow-up to the meeting, receive guidance so that their work can be effective and successful. Bearing in mind the objectives we have agreed to in the Convention, it is particularly important to proceed with the implementation as soon as possible of paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Resolution. We should therefore invite the Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems to convene a special session early in 1980, in order to determine ECE and national contributions required for the implementation of the Resolution.

In addition, the high-level meeting should confirm that the necessary additional secretariat resources in support of the follow-up work will be provided from the outset.

In concluding this part of my intervention, I should like briefly to relate to you the latest Norwegian data with respect to the acid rain situation:

This summer we experienced heavy rainfalls with pH values as low as 5.9, in some of the most exposed areas. During the month of August, one ton of sulphates per square kilometer was deposited in these areas. It should be noted that only about 10 per cent of the sulphur deposition in Norway is due to emissions from Norwegian sources.

In many districts in Norway a majority of the lakes and rivers, have lost their fishstocks. Trend analysis shows a steady increase in the number of empty lakes and a spreading of acidification into new areas, particularly on the west coast and in eastern inland districts.

Let me add that we do not see the air pollution Convention and the Resolution as instruments to deal with sulphur problems alone. The co-operative framework we are establishing will be of great importance also for other air pollution problems. It may, for example, prove to be an appropriate forum to carry further, in the first instance in a regional context, the present international discussions on the need for co-ordination of measures to protect the ozone layer from discharges to the atmosphere due to human activities.

I should like now to turn briefly to other aspects of our debate, and to refer particularly to the scope of the co-operation we are discussing. We would do well, I believe, to lay our principal emphasis on the follow-up of the decisions of this meeting, in particular on the implementation of the Convention and Resolution.

However, we also welcome the Declaration on Low and Non-Waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes, which provides us with valuable guidelines for international co-operation, aiming at the development of more resource-conserving and less polluting technology. A rapid development of such technology, will be of decisive importance in our task of protecting the environment. International co-operation in this area should serve increasingly to focus the attention of Governments and industry, in the years to come, on this approach to environmental protection and we expect the ECE to play an important role in this respect.

We have decided to participate actively in the ongoing ECE-project on low and non-waste technology. We have already submitted contributions regarding production of ferromanganese, aluminium and ferro-alloy.

With regard to the problem of water pollution, including transboundary water pollution, we support the further development of international co-operation to limit pollution in shared waterways, and in those marine areas where agreements for internationally co-ordinated protection have not yet been established.

I also welcome and support an increasing involvement of the ECE in the area of nature conservation.

ECE's participation in this area should in my view be particularly directed towards the task of monitoring and protecting endangered flora and fauna.

The Convention and the Resolution we have adopted at this meeting together represent a major political achievement, and are proof of our ability to develop a joint understanding of a complex environmental problem. But even more importantly, the two documents before us also provide a basis for joint action. A failure by our Governments to use this basis and framework for co-operative action will result in serious continued deterioration of the environment. On the other hand, concrete results will strengthen the credibility of ECE efforts, also in other areas of co-operation, thus bringing both political and environmental advantages.

(M. M. d'Ornano, Ministre français de l'environnement et du cadre de vie)

La réunion d'aujourd'hui est un événement exceptionnel à plus d'un titre :

En premier lieu, la présence dans cette enceinte de ministres chargés de l'environnement représentant trente-quatre pays de l'Europe et du continent nord-américain, membres de la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies, atteste combien les problèmes de protection de l'environnement, autrefois réservés à quelques spécialistes, sont désormais au coeur des politiques suivies par nos pays.

En second lieu, cette occasion, qui est solennelle, constitue un événement politique majeur parce qu'elle contribue à réunir des pays qui ont des responsabilités économiques et politiques particulières dans le monde; elle doit être l'occasion d'affirmer clairement la volonté de mettre en place concrètement les éléments de progrès indispensables à la sauvegarde de l'environnement de notre continent.

Enfin, la réunion d'aujourd'hui doit nous permettre d'affirmer une nouvelle fois, sur les exemples particuliers de la pollution atmosphérique et des techniques peu polluantes, et par l'intermédiaire des textes que nous avons adoptés, le rôle majeur que doivent désormais jouer les politiques concertées de l'environnement face aux contraintes de développement économique et social de nos nations.

M. Valéry GISCARD d'ESTAING, Président de la République française, déclarait, dès 1977 : "l'écologie doit franchir les frontières des idéologies".

Aussi le Président de la République avait-il apporté son appui au projet d'une conférence européenne de l'environnement, réunissant les Etats signataires de l'Acte final d'Helsinki - projet qui se réalise aujourd'hui même.

* * *

C'est dans cet esprit que je me félicite de la signature de la présente Convention dont l'objet principal est précisément d'élucider des problèmes techniques difficiles sous l'égide de la Commission et avec le soutien scientifique des experts gouvernementaux.

Il semble en effet admis qu'une fraction des substances émises à l'atmosphère peut faire l'objet de transport sur des grandes distances. Toutefois, les connaissances actuelles en ce domaine sont encore imparfaites, en ce qui concerne la nature des produits, l'amplitude des transports ou les effets occasionnés sur les milieux naturels.

Les résultats des investigations prévues par la Convention seront d'autant plus attendus que, si des solutions correctrices apparaissent nécessaires, elles seront sans aucun doute coûteuses; il est donc nécessaire de démontrer en préalable leur opportunité comme leur efficacité, à une époque où le contexte économique général d'une part, les conditions d'approvisionnement énergétique d'autre part, éclairent d'un jour particulier les réflexions de la Commission.

Cinq ans se sont écoulés depuis les événements politiques et énergétiques de 1974. La hausse de l'énergie et des matières premières a fait prendre conscience du fait qu'elles étaient en quantités limitées; la conjoncture économique n'est plus la même et les analyses économiques ont été révisées; les solidarités internationales ont évolué.

Et pourtant, les besoins des hommes demeurent, les aspirations sont toujours pressantes et exigent notre action.

Les responsables politiques ont tenu compte de l'expression de ces exigences : les aspects locaux, c'est-à-dire la protection de la population, de la faune, de la flore au voisinage des sources polluantes restent en soi une raison éminente de lutter contre les pollutions.

* * *

1. La France fait partie des pays qui ont donné l'exemple en mettant en place, depuis de nombreuses années, et en perfectionnant sans cesse un dispositif législatif et réglementaire cohérent et adapté, intéressant l'eau, l'air, les déchets, les installations industrielles, les produits chimiques, la protection de la nature ...

En matière de pollution atmosphérique, la France a consenti et consent des efforts considérables pour réduire les consommations d'énergie - donc les émissions - pour améliorer la qualité des approvisionnements en combustibles, pour mieux maîtriser l'activité industrielle.

Les résultats sont là : la France compte en effet parmi les pays industrialisés dont la consommation d'énergie spécifique est la plus faible, et en particulier parmi les nations présentant les émissions de soufre par habitant les plus faibles.

Nous poursuivons nos efforts, certes avec réalisme économique, mais aussi avec détermination : nos émissions ne devraient pas augmenter de façon significative à l'avenir; la France s'attachera également à poursuivre l'oeuvre de rénovation de l'outil industriel dans le sens d'une meilleure prévention des nuisances à la source.

Je rejoins là une importante préoccupation de la Commission en matière de techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets, thème également à l'ordre du jour de la présente session.

Vous me permettez de vous rappeler, Monsieur le Secrétaire exécutif, votre présence à Paris il y a trois ans lors du Séminaire que la Commission organisa à Paris à l'invitation du Gouvernement français sur ce thème des techniques non polluantes.

Ce fut sans nul doute à ce moment-là que ce concept de prévention des pollutions industrielles, de réduction des nuisances à leur source s'affirma et que l'on commença à considérer que produire proprement et économiquement était non seulement possible, mais réalisable et déjà réalisé dans quelques secteurs industriels.

La France développe en effet des initiatives positives visant à assurer la promotion des technologies propres et économes garantes à la fois de la protection de l'environnement et du respect des impératifs du développement économique de nos sociétés. Car là est le point essentiel : la lutte pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement ne doit plus être conçue comme du rattrapage, comme une contrainte inéluctablement opposée à la croissance, comme un luxe pour pays prospères, mais comme un élément déterminant de la croissance économique et de la survie des générations à venir.

Or, l'évolution technologique nous donne l'opportunité, dès maintenant, non seulement de concilier la lutte contre la pollution et la croissance économique, mais même de servir l'une tout en respectant l'autre.

Sur ces deux points de la pollution atmosphérique et des technologies propres, la France a fait des propositions à ses partenaires de la Communauté économique européenne et elle a bon espoir d'être suivie.

2. Ceci est bien le signe que l'environnement, lui aussi, s'internationalise, au-delà des frontières et des idéologies.

Il faut prendre en effet conscience de ce fait majeur de la fin de l'actuelle décennie, qui fait qu'une nation, quels que soient son stade et son mode de développement économique, doit mener de front la gestion de ses ressources, le respect de l'emploi et la sauvegarde du patrimoine naturel de son territoire comme de celui de ses voisins : une nation ne peut plus ignorer le contexte international dans lequel elle évolue, et c'est pourquoi, dans une autre enceinte internationale, j'avais lancé un appel à l'institution d'une morale internationale de l'environnement.

Pas plus que nous ne pouvons ignorer les contraintes de l'organisation de l'économie et des échanges internationaux, nous ne pouvons conduire avec succès, chacun de notre côté, des politiques d'environnement qui risqueraient de se contredire et, à long terme, de réduire les bénéfices que chaque pays espère en tirer.

Au-delà du dialogue commercial et des impératifs de moralisation des échanges, nous devons construire - et c'est bien aujourd'hui l'occasion de l'affirmer avec force - une solidarité de fait entre tous les habitants d'une même planète qui n'ont d'autre issue que de sauvegarder leur propre existence : l'atmosphère, les océans, les mers, les terres cultivables, les richesses géologiques font partie de notre fond commun à tous.

Nous possédons un patrimoine commun qu'il ne faut pas risquer de brader par des pratiques à court terme, pour la satisfaction immédiate de besoins non impérieux, au détriment de nos sociétés de demain.

La crise ne peut être un alibi pour relâcher les efforts car nous payerons demain dix fois plus cher ce que nous n'aurons pas su sauvegarder aujourd'hui.

Sachons simplement faire avec sérieux les choix nécessaires dans un souci de réalisme social et économique, et dans un esprit de coopération écologique et de progrès économique.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
REPUBLICQUE DEMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE
ГЕРМАНСКАЯ ДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА

(Dr. H. Reichelt, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Environmental Protection and Water Management of the German Democratic Republic)

The German Democratic Republic attaches great importance to the all-European congress on the environment. We are convinced that in pursuance of the recommendations of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the congress will make an important contribution to the materialization of international détente, to the implementation of the principles of peaceful co-existence in international relations and to co-operation concerning the enhancement of the environment.

The fact that this congress has been convened is convincing proof that the peoples in Europe are willing to maintain and promote the positive tendency in the development of international affairs, the process of détente. We are particularly grateful to the USSR who initiated the idea of holding this congress and worked persistently to see it take place.

Most essential to the protection of the environment and of the natural resources is peace. To safeguard peace calls for the immediate cessation of the arms race and for effective steps towards disarmament. Progress in terms of military détente and effective disarmament measures are decisive conditions for economic and social progress. They are directly related with the solution of the global problems of the environment.

The reduction of military confrontation is a matter of increasing urgency. The recent peace initiative of the USSR makes it possible to proceed in a spirit of trust towards reducing military tensions, without which lasting détente is inconceivable.

The Soviet proposals meet the vital interests of all peace-loving peoples. Now it is imperative to start negotiations. To reject such a vital offer would mean to call into question the basis of further peaceful co-operation.

We regard the conclusion of SALT-2 as an important contribution to a secure peace, because that treaty can give an impetus to further disarmament negotiations.

The German Democratic Republic considers also the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or other Hostile Uses of Environmental Modification Techniques as a step towards this end.

The German Democratic Republic and other socialist countries have repeatedly proposed that the resources released as a result of disarmament measures be used for peaceful purposes, including the protection of the environment and of the natural resources. It is beyond doubt that the solution of pressing problems of our times such as the protection of the environment depends to a decisive degree on the co-operation among all European countries, on the further improvement of the political climate, and on further progress towards disarmament and a secure peace.

Throughout its existence the German Democratic Republic, which marked its thirtieth anniversary a few weeks ago, has attached great importance to the conservation of nature and the rational utilization of the natural resources.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the leading social force in the German Democratic Republic, has laid down in its Programme the mandatory duty to encourage "environmental protection and planning in the interests of a steady improvement of working and living conditions and of national economic efficiency". To promote the protection of the environment for everybody's well-being and in the interest of national economy is a constitutional duty of the State and of each citizen and a living reality in the German Democratic Republic. This comprises the rational use and protection of the soil, the prevention of water and air pollution and the protection of the flora and fauna and of natural amenities. The respective tasks and actions are laid down in comprehensive legislation.

The German Democratic Republic sees no contradiction between economic growth and enhancing material and cultural standards of living on the one hand and the protection of the environment on the other. On the contrary, careful management and rational utilization of the natural resources and the protection of the environment are indeed integral elements of the country's economic and social policy, a condition for dynamic economic growth. The development of the national economy gives rise to many needs in terms of the protection and utilization of natural resources, just as, conversely, economic growth creates scientific, technological and material conditions for the solution of the tasks involved in the protection of the environment.

In the German Democratic Republic environmental protection is neither an object of psychosis and of gloomy forecasts nor an end in itself, but it is an integral part of social and national economic development. We make use of the advantages of socialist economic planning for meeting the challenges in the protection of the environment in a long-term and far-sighted approach. These challenges, like the tasks in production, are included in the five-year and annual economic plans at the national, regional and local level. The task of environmental protection requires great public expenditure which is in definite relation to national economic potential and depends on natural conditions and the raw materials available.

Although we had a considerable increase in industrial and agricultural output in the 1970s, we managed to prevent any further pollution of the environment, in particular air and water pollution. Internationally recognized progress has been made in the rational utilization of the soil, the reclamation and rehabilitation of mining areas, the expansion of wooded areas, the setting up of natural reserves and areas of outstanding natural beauty, and in the establishment of recreational areas.

We are making successful efforts in the field of the recycling of wastes. Some 30 per cent of all industrial wastes are being recycled in our economy, the percentage for metallic secondary raw materials being 100 per cent, for liquid wastes - 81 per cent, for plastic and elastic wastes - 76 per cent. In our national economy secondary raw materials are as important as primary ones. By 1985 we hope to utilize as much as 40 per cent of industrial wastes. A major role in the fulfilment of the tasks involved in the protection of the environment is due to science and technology. They explore ever new ways to protect the environment still more reliably and to utilize natural resources still more effectively in the future. These ways include complex measures to introduce closed cycles, low- and non-waste technology and processes with low or no water consumption in the power, metallurgic, chemical and other industries. Great importance is being attached to the abatement

of air pollution, in particular of sulphur dioxide. We see prospective solutions to this problem particularly in the rational use of energy by reducing specific energy consumption, in the desulphurization of fuel oil, as well as in the application of flue gas desulphurization techniques which need further development.

The German Democratic Republic has developed in close co-operation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. During 30 years of successful co-operation in the Council, a broad range of new relations has developed in the field of the protection of the environment. These relations are reflected in joint solution of tasks on the basis of long-term programmes for the many areas of environmental protection. This approach opens up great possibilities for enhancing efficiency and reducing the time of research, development and production.

We attach great importance to co-operation with our neighbours. In a fair number of treaties and agreements there are laid down co-operative tasks of mutual concern. I just mention here the intergovernmental agreements concluded with our friends and neighbours - the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Polish People's Republic.

The close scientific and technological co-operation of the German Democratic Republic with the USSR and the other socialist countries also opens up new possibilities for co-operation with other countries for the protection of the environment. This is reflected, inter alia, in the successful co-operation of the seven riparian states of the Baltic Sea aimed at its conservation and protection from pollution, in the constructive participation of the German Democratic Republic in the United Nations Environment Programme and in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Since the Treaty on the Bases of Relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany was signed, various agreements have been concluded with the Federal Republic of Germany on the regulation of matters concerning the utilization and protection of water resources.

From the very outset the German Democratic Republic has done everything in its power to promote the convening of an all-European congress on the environment. Together with the other socialist countries it took an active part in preparations for it.

The German Democratic Republic highly values the final documents prepared as a result of intense work:

the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution; and

the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-Utilization and Re-cycling of Wastes.

These documents, which have been drawn up by joint efforts, constitute a constructive compromise of all participating States. In the opinion of my delegation realistic solutions and approaches have been found which, on the one hand, make use of the potential of international co-operation for enhancing the effectiveness of national environmental action and, on the other hand, take due account of national conditions and of the economic, scientific and technological capabilities of the countries concerned.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic approves these documents and declares its readiness to co-operate in the attainment of their goals in the letter and spirit of these instruments and on the basis of the principles adopted in Helsinki for co-operation.

On behalf of the Government of the German Democratic Republic I have already signed the Convention today at noon.

The German Democratic Republic is prepared to implement the stipulations of the Convention according to its scientific, technological and economic possibilities, taking into account the economic conditions of the German Democratic Republic. It will take, in a constructive way, appropriate national action to implement the recommendations of the Declaration.

The German Democratic Republic believes that the results of this High-Level Meeting definitely confirm the usefulness of all-European congresses and inter-State conferences on such vital and topical problems as have been proposed and explained by the USSR at the Commission's thirty-first session on 1 April 1976. The German Democratic Republic expresses the hope that positive decisions will be taken in the near future also with regard to the holding of high-level meetings on transport and energy.

NETHERLANDS
PAYS-BAS
НИДЕРЛАНДЫ

(Dr. L. Ginjaar, Minister for Health and Environmental Protection of the Netherlands)

Due to the perseverance of the Swedish Government and of the Governments of the other Nordic countries, the member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe and the European Economic Community as such gather here today at this High Level Meeting to sign the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution.

We are embarking now on a first co-operative effort at a large international level to control and - so we hope - to diminish air pollution, including long range transboundary air pollution, in Europe, the United States of America and Canada.

That it has been possible to call this meeting is due to the major efforts made by all ECE countries which have been engaged in the preparations for the Convention and the High Level Meeting. The Convention can be regarded as a starting point for further international co-operation to control air pollution, as was envisaged in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Brief History

We had to go a long way indeed before the Governments of European countries, together with those of the United States of America and Canada, found sufficient reason and sufficient common ground to develop the Convention before us, for which the draft text was submitted by the Nordic countries.

Co-operation in the scientific and monitoring fields

Already in the 1950s, a number of scientific institutes in Europe began exchanging information on sulphur dioxide emissions in their respective countries.

Extensive collaboration, especially in the field of long range transboundary air pollution, took place within the framework of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. It was becoming more and more apparent, to take one example, that the acidification of fresh water and soil in Nordic countries was caused largely by sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emitted in other parts of Europe.

A further milestone in the extension of international co-operation was reached when the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems adopted the "Co-operative programme on monitoring and evaluation of long range transmission of air pollutants in Europe". The more so as the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme both participate in this programme.

Development of health criteria

It should also be borne in mind that in 1972 the World Health Organisation, increasingly concerned with the health effects of sulphur dioxide in the air, developed health criteria for sulphur oxides and suspended particulate matter, criteria which were revised recently.

I have touched on events in the past not solely as an academic exercise. I have tried to pinpoint the converging international developments leading to this Convention and to national policies for the abatement of air pollution, in particular that caused by sulphur dioxide.

Significance of the Convention

In evaluating the significance of the Convention, I feel stress should be laid on the following points:

Firstly:

As far as I am aware, this is the first time that reference has been made explicitly to principle 21 of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in an internationally legally binding instrument. I quote from this principle: "States have ... the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. The international acknowledgement of this principle, together with the recognition of the existence of possible adverse effects of long range transboundary air pollution, must be considered as a great step forward.

Secondly:

The Convention will encourage Governments to include measures contributing to the reduction of long range transboundary air pollution in their national policies and strategies controlling the discharge of air pollutants.

Thirdly:

The Convention improves the tools for further international co-operation in the scientific, research and monitoring fields. I wish to make special reference here to the valuable work conducted in the framework of the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme.

Fourthly:

In connexion with the Resolution we have adopted today, it will be possible to start international co-operation within the framework of the ECE immediately, which will provide Parties to the Convention with a platform for discussing mutual efforts for the abatement of air pollution. The exchange of information on our national policies which is provided for in the Convention might prove to be the cornerstone for the future development of co-operation in the context of the Convention.

Efforts in The Netherlands: The SO₂ Policy framework plan

The Netherlands Government is prepared to accept this challenge. Recently - and at a very opportune moment I think - the Government adopted a strategy plan for the abatement of SO₂. At the beginning of last month I had the pleasure of sending this plan to Parliament. The Introduction to the plan and a Summary of it have been translated into English and will be made available to delegations.

I should like to use this opportunity to highlight some aspects of the plan, which contains the framework for future policies designed to:

- limit the total emission of sulphur dioxide over the whole of the Netherlands;
- set ambient air quality standards.

Limiting SO₂ emissions

The total emission of sulphur dioxide for the Netherlands as a whole is limited to 500,000 tons a year. In setting this ceiling account was taken of the necessity to limit the contribution to transboundary SO₂ fluxes caused by SO₂ emissions in the Netherlands.

Due to unforeseen changes in the energy situation, including the shift from natural gas to oil and coal, total emissions of sulphur dioxide regrettably exceeded the set level in 1978. However, measures will be taken to reduce emissions and to get them back to the level of 500,000 tons again by 1985. Should no measures be taken, total emissions might rise to a figure two to five times as high as the present level by the year 2000, depending on the rate of growth of our economy. This would mean that the mean annual concentration would have increased from about 100 µg/m³ to 250-300 µg/m³. Intensification of efforts to combat SO₂ pollution at all policy-making levels in both the short and long term is a matter of great urgency.

The setting of ambient air quality standards

As far as setting ambient air quality standards for the protection of human health is concerned, the framework plan aims for the time being at:

- a 50-percentile of 75 µg/m³ and
- a 95-percentile of 200 µg/m³,

Supplemented by emergency levels for peak values. For the protection of nature reserves the aim would be a 99-percentile of 100-120 µg/m³.

I express the hope here and now that, in order to improve health and environmental conditions in our countries, Governments will be prepared to set ambient air quality standards at these levels, even if it is only possible to attain them in certain areas of their countries in the longer term. In general the levels I mentioned are being met in the Netherlands. Occasionally higher concentrations mainly due to transboundary SO₂ fluxes are being measured.

Assessing SO₂ policies

The policy intentions concerning the abatement of SO₂ pollution will be assessed against environmental, socio-economic and energy policies. Abatement programmes will be drawn up in co-operation with local government and the industry for successive periods of three years on the basis of actual developments in these respective policy fields. In future, i.e. after 1985, SO₂ policy will be based to a large extent on the application of control techniques for the abatement at sources and other techniques. Initially, measures with regard to the sulphur content of fuels will be of primary importance.

Clean technologies

In concluding my remarks on the sulphur dioxide policy framework plan, I wish to point out that in relation to the abatement at source due attention will be given to the development and application of cleaner technologies. The application

of advanced production and pollution abatement techniques will be encouraged by the Netherlands Government as one of the instruments for reducing emissions. In this respect the adoption today of the Declaration on Low and Non-Waste Technology and the Re-utilization and Re-cycling of Wastes, underlining, inter alia, the need for international co-operative activities, must be regarded as a most welcome event. International activities concerning cleaner technologies can surely be of great importance to the implementation of the Convention by the respective Parties, as well as to the abatement of water pollution and of waste in general.

Chlorofluorocarbons: a global concern

In the limited time available it is not possible for me to cover the whole range of environmental problems. Before summing up, however, I should like to draw the attention of the meeting to one other global problem. Recent information on the effects of the use of chlorofluorocarbons on the stratospheric ozone layer, on the basis of studies by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Cancer Institute, gives rise to very serious concerns. It is my opinion that we cannot accept such risks as are now presented to us. Since the Governments of almost all manufacturing and user countries are present here, I want to make an appeal to Governments to take national and international action to reduce substantially - if not completely - their production and use of chlorofluorocarbons.

Summary

In conclusion I should like to summarize the main points of my statement:

- (a) The Convention provides a political platform for further international collaborative efforts to combat air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution;
- (b) Governments are stimulated by the Convention to include measures contributing to the reduction of long range transboundary air pollution when developing their national policies and strategies for controlling the discharge of air pollutants;
- (c) It is the strong belief of my Government that environmental policies for combating air pollution, including transboundary pollution, should be based both on measures controlling emissions and on the setting of ambient air quality standards. This firm conviction will be the basis for our national actions as well as for our efforts in international forums;
- (d) The adoption of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology will support international activities concerning clean technologies and thus help to restrict air pollution;
- (e) Due attention should be given to environmental problems of a global nature. Because of the danger of depleting the ozone layer in particular, national and international action should be taken to reduce substantially - if not completely - the production and use of chlorofluorocarbons.

The implementation of the Convention will be difficult, slow and heavy. The efficient and valuable support of the ECE secretariat, under the leadership of the Executive Secretary who has so ably guided us during the difficult preparations for the Convention, will certainly be necessary.

In the future it will be the responsibility of Governments and international organizations to enhance and improve their own and our common environment. The Netherlands Government is prepared to accept its role in striving for this common goal.

However, representing as we do most of the industrialized countries of the world, we should not forget the environmental problems and needs encountered by other countries in the world. It will be one of our tasks to support these countries in overcoming their problems, some of which arise from the use of imported hazardous technologies and products. The message coming from this High Level Meeting should be that environmental concerns should not be bounded by boundaries.

POLAND
POLOGNE
ПОЛЬША

(Mr. J. Kepa, Minister for Administration, Local Economy and Environment of Poland)

Poland considers the convening of the All-European High Level Meeting within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe on co-operation in environmental protection as an important factor in the process of implementing the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In our opinion, this Meeting constitutes a positive element in constructing a solid infrastructure of peace, in consolidating détente, in expanding co-operation among States, and makes an important contribution to next year's meeting of the States-Signatories of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, to be held in Madrid.

The final document of the present Meeting, which we are going to sign on behalf of our Governments, links the basic principles of strengthening security and co-operation in Europe with the one of the fundamental human rights to enjoy a healthy and undegraded natural environment, and hoists environmental protection to the rank of those paramount principles, which should serve as guidelines for practical activities of States, including international co-operation.

Poland has welcomed with appreciation the initiative of the Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, on convening all-European congresses on energy, development of transport and environmental protection, rendering to that initiative its full support.

Our appreciation of the importance of the Meeting on the part of the highest authorities of the Polish People's Republic is manifested by the message of the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Mr. Edward Gierek, to this Meeting.

We fully share the position expressed by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the statement delivered by the Head of this delegation, Mr. Vladimir Kirillin.

The international security and socio-economic growth of our continent and of the world is inseparably linked with disarmament. It is a common knowledge that more and more States unfortunately join the arms race, which takes the form of a technological race, engaging human resources and consuming large material means.

In our view, the means devoted to armaments should be diverted for peaceful economic, social and cultural growth of States, including also the area of environmental protection.

The numerous Polish initiatives and proposals to this end are well known to international opinion. It is a basic goal of the foreign policy of the Polish People's Republic to pursue the consolidation of peace. Guided by the desire to promote peaceful endeavours among contemporary and future generations, Poland came forth with the idea of preparing societies to life in peace. This idea has been developed in the Declaration adopted last year by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

On the fortieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the Diet of the Polish People's Republic addressed an "Appeal from the People of Poland to the Peoples and Parliaments of the World". In this Appeal, Poland reminds parliaments and peoples of their historical responsibility for the future of our globe.

The Government and the people of Poland with profound satisfaction have endorsed the SALT II agreement. We have rendered full support for the proposals put forward by Leonid Brezhnev, designed to prevent the development of new generation of intermediate range weapons, to consolidate confidence building measures including also the announcement on unilateral reduction of the Soviet armed forces and military equipment deployed in the German Democratic Republic.

In Poland, environment is regarded as a common national heritage and the obligation of its protection has been given the status of a constitutional principle.

All branches of our national economy show deep concern for natural environment, a fact exerting influence on all aspects of the activity exercised by both the central and the local authorities. In 1975 our Government adopted the "Programme of Environmental Protection in Poland until 1990", which is now under implementation.

Since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, we have attained in Poland a considerable progress in the protection of water and air against pollution, reclamation and protection of soil, protection of the unique values of nature and landscape, of flora and fauna, in training cadres for the needs of environmental protection and a number of other related areas.

We are increasing the investments for environmental protection, for up-dating industrial technologies, for constructing sewage treatment facilities, and for agro-chemical procedures in agriculture and forestry. The control over the sources of pollution is being expanded and strengthened.

We unfold activities aimed at reducing dustiness and air pollution.

Positive results have been attained in protecting rivers, lakes and sea coasts against pollution. We are starting the implementation of a comprehensive programme on the utilization and regulation of the river Vistula. The realization of this programme will have considerable importance for our country's economy as well as for the water system of Europe, also for its use as a waterway.

Reclamation of soils, particularly those left after open cast mining, has found also appropriate attention.

At present, there are numerous scientific research programmes under way in Poland, which in a broad sense deal with environmental protection. Appropriate legislation on the protection of the environment is being amended.

Poland is a signatory of over 25 conventions and protocol agreements on the protection of the environment.

A high rate of industrial growth and large concentration of industry are the characteristic features of our country. This gives rise to specific new problems and difficulties.

Basing ourselves on our experience, scientific and technological accomplishments, as well as counting on growing international co-operation, also as a result of the present Meeting, we expect these problems to be handled much more effectively than before.

Poland actively co-operates with her neighbouring countries, both those within the region of the Economic Commission for Europe and with countries outside that region. With our neighbours, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic, this co-operation is based on appropriate agreements and concords, covering a broad range of scientific, technological, economic and social issues.

We are developing fruitful co-operation with the Scandinavian countries within the framework of international conventions on the Baltic Sea, which we have ratified.

An ever increasing role in undertaking projects on environmental protection is played by international organizations, particularly by the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. Poland will continue its active participation in the work of these organizations. The Economic Commission for Europe will have an important role to play in developing the co-operation on environmental protection.

We attach considerable importance to the co-operation in this area among the countries-members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and within the framework of the special body established for this purpose - the Council for Environment Protection and Development.

The Polish delegation approves the final documents submitted to this Meeting. We hereby declare our will to implement the recommendations contained in these important documents.

Co-operation among the States of the ECE region for the implementation of the recommendations provided for in the Convention, in the Declaration and in the resolution, will require from us all an approach of goodwill, as well as increased expenditure, joint and effective scientific research and development work, free transfer of scientific and technological data and information, and a number of other undertakings.

We assume that the co-operation will develop in the conditions of mutual understanding and to mutual advantage.

We are hopeful that the intensified co-operation and mutual technological assistance in implementing the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution will promote the gradual reduction of pollutants' emission and dispersion of sulphur compounds over long distances.

In the area of low and non-waste technologies it seems necessary to create, as a result of the present Meeting, an arsenal of scientific means and methods, accessible to all, which at present remain at the disposal of various States.

It should enable, in our opinion, a speeding up of the transition to more effective technologies. This should be promoted by mutual exchange of information, access to data and patents. The needs in that area are great, and the interest - almost universal.

To meet the provisions of the documents submitted to this Meeting, the Polish delegation proposes to intensify the work on the technologies of coal utilization and processing that take into account the environmental aspects. On our part we declare our readiness to co-operate in the field of electric and thermal energy generation by means of highly efficient fluidized bed combustion equipment with parallel desulphurization of coal fuels, in desulphurization of combustion gases and purification of energy-generating fuels, in a rational and economic utilization of dusts, pospho-gypsum, metallurgic gravels and other wastes, including mining wastes.

Irrespective of the issues defined in the final documents of our Meeting, there exist numerous other, important and complicated, environmental problems on our continent, e.g. the protection and utilization of water resources, treatment of toxic substances and wastes, protection of flora and fauna. One should also include in such problems the co-operation on the protection of the marine environment and also humanitarian aspects, such as: environmental protection in human settlements, protection from the civilization-bred diseases, protection and reclamation of arable lands, training and preparation of cadres to serve the needs of environmental protection and others. These issues should not wait for their resolution in a remote future. In our opinion, the scope of co-operation with regard to these issues should be constantly broadened.

The delegation of the Polish People's Republic would also like to express the hope that the subject matters of the present Meeting shall find due reflection and rank in further action to be taken by the Economic Commission for Europe. In our view, regional and global co-operation on these issues, as well as in the fields most closely related to them, i.e. energy and transportation, should be given long-term dimensions and should yield social, economic and political results commensurate with the expectations of our peoples.

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
ALLEMAGNE, REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE D'
ФЕДЕРАТИВНАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА ГЕРМАНИИ

(Mr. C.R. Baum, Minister of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany)

In the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, environmental protection, especially the subject of "long-range transport of air pollution", was mentioned as a particular area of co-operation. However, it is mainly due to the ECE that the convention and the resolution on long-range transboundary air pollution and on low-waste and non-waste technologies and recycling materialized. The negotiations between the Governments involved were efficiently conducted by the Senior Advisers in that they showed a great willingness to compromise. The Executive Secretary and his Secretariat provided unfailing support and successfully arranged for the technical requirements to be met. Our warmest thanks are extended to all of them. The ECE has once more proved to be a body of fruitful regional co-operation.

Although there are still considerable gaps of knowledge with regard to cause-effect relationships, we take the concern about air pollution very seriously. There is ample reason to endeavour to reduce air pollution even if cause-effect relationships are yet to be clarified.

To many environmentalists the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution which is being signed by us here today, may appear not to be sufficiently comprehensive. If the importance of this Convention is to be properly appreciated, the present economic and social background should be taken into account. Many ECE member countries are at present experiencing a marked increase in mineral oil prices or even shortages in their mineral oil supply with the consequence of growing economic difficulties.

Again and again such economic and social aspects must be weighed against environmental requirements. National economies are competing with each other. In the end it will not be those goods which guarantee the lowest pollution levels which are bought and sold but those that are the best value for money and this will hold true everywhere even in those States which are particularly active in the area of environmental protection at an international level. This may put at a competitive disadvantage precisely those manufacturers who are particularly conscientious with regard to pollution control. This is most strongly felt in highly industrialized States and States whose economy is to a large extent based on export. However, all countries benefit from the economic strength of those very States, in particular those nations whose economic potential is not yet sufficiently developed and who are in need of assistance.

In view of this, my Government regards this Convention as a very well-balanced and constructive contribution to the solution of the problem of air pollution as a whole, including long-range transboundary air pollution. It shows that even in a difficult economic situation with unresolved problems of energy supply, progress in the field of environmental protection is possible despite pessimistic comments. There is no inevitable clash between a positive economic development and environmental requirements.

It was important that Governments agreed to conduct further research and monitoring in order to make a more accurate evaluation of the cause-effect relationships. The Federal Republic of Germany has from the outset put the results of its efficient monitoring network at the disposal of the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme which is part of the Global Environmental Monitoring System of UNEP. Any day now construction work will be begun on the German-Spanish baseline station at Tenerife. This station will contribute to the global monitoring of the atmosphere. In co-operation with the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany has studied the transport of air pollutants across our common frontier and developed a model which will enable us to determine transboundary transport of air pollution.

Research and monitoring are important as is the agreement reached that a potentially hazardous development should not be left to itself until all essential causes and effects have been clarified but that concrete abatement measures should be provided now. This is in line with the concept of preventive action which is an integral part of environmental policy in my country. The emission of air pollutants should be controlled at the source. Often domestic and transfrontier air pollution originates from the very same sources. The abatement of long-range transport of air pollution across the frontiers should therefore not be approached as an isolated objective but as part of the fight against air pollution as a whole.

The agreement that new industrial plants will be equipped according to the state of the art as far as this is economically feasible, is an important step forward in the international field. This instrument as well as others already developed or to be developed under national responsibility will prove the value of the pledge of member countries to endeavour to reduce and, as far as possible, to prevent air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution.

The achievements of modern clean air policy and the progress made in this field are encouraging and should not be underestimated.

In our country now installations are equipped according to the state of the art in pollution control technology, whether they are situated in areas of industrial concentration or not. The state of the art also includes flue gas desulphurization. Our desulphurization regulations for coal and mineral oil are relatively strict and compare favourably with those in other States. In areas of industrial concentration air quality is continuously checked by means of a close-meshed monitoring network. Emission inventories are drawn up and developed. Clean air schemes are the basis for promising improvement measures. In addition, a Federal programme for the improvement of existing industrial plants was launched this year.

More than five hundred million deutsche mark have been allocated to this programme which extends over a period of five years. This sum will serve as an incentive for investments of more than one thousand million deutsche mark.

Owing to these measures, emission and pollution levels for sulphur dioxide and particularly for dusts and hydrocarbons have been reduced in my country in the last few years. There is a realistic hope that this favourable trend will continue in the next few years and that a noticeable reduction of air pollution will also be achieved with regard to other pollutants. This will also have positive effects on long-range transboundary air pollution.

My country's air pollution control policy is closely linked to the air pollution control policy of the European Communities. The same goes for all other member countries. Recently the European Communities have considerably intensified their activities in this field. The full participation of the European Communities in this Convention and its implementation is therefore indispensable to us.

Action of the European Community is also needed in the field of hydro-fluorocarbons, one of the most dangerous pollutants.

I am deeply concerned about the recent scientific evidence - presented for instance by the United States Academy of Science - of effects of HFC-use on the ozone layer. My Government will ask the European Community at its next Council of Environment Ministers to take action quickly. We all have to co-operate in halting the destruction of the life-protecting ozone layer.

The declaration on low-waste and non-waste technologies and recycling will also strengthen international co-operation. This is the direct result of our realization that the problems to be tackled by the various ECE member countries are the same.

The experience with our waste management programme, which was launched in 1975, was very encouraging, for example:

- The recycling of used glass increased by more than 20 per cent. This now amounts to about 400,000 tons per year and is still on the increase.
- In 1976, 43 per cent of the paper and board production was based on waste paper. This corresponds to about 2.9 million tons of waste paper.
- The recycling rate for old cars is about 95 per cent which is a very good example of re-use and reprocessing.
- Plastic wastes from production processes are already being completely recycled. Moreover, the reprocessing of plastic wastes contained in household refuse is being studied within the framework of an extensive research programme.
- Particular priority is given to the large-scale utilization of domestic wastes. In 13 demonstration projects possibilities of energy production from domestic wastes are being studied in addition to raw material recovery.
- The waste exchange agencies which operate on a private basis, primarily for the re-use of chemicals, have proved to be useful.

The Federal Republic of Germany will continue to share its experience within the framework of ECE.

My Government noted with great satisfaction that the rapporteurs' group of the ECE Committee on Water Problems reached an agreement on the text of a water declaration. I think we are right in hoping that this text will be approved at next week's special session of the Committee on Water Problems and that it will then be adopted next spring by the annual ECE plenary session, i.e. by the supreme body of the ECE which also adopted the previous water declaration.

It is surely not presumptuous to hope that the Convention on air pollution, the Declaration on low-waste and non-waste technologies and the ECE water declaration which is being prepared may serve as a model for the solution of problems in other regions. The ECE activities in the field of long-range transboundary air pollution deserve particular credit in view of their exemplary nature and ECE work in this context merits full support. My Government therefore warmly appreciates the United Nations Environment Programme's decision at the seventh session of its Governing Council to support the ECE activities in this field to the same extent as before, at least until 1983.

At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972, our Swedish friends displayed manifest tokens of their warm hospitality and strong commitment for environmental protection. Now, seven years after this Conference, we have covered a considerable distance in our joint effort to fight environmental pollution and the wasteful use of resources. There is no doubt about it - we are on the right track in the ECE.

FINLAND
FINLAND
FINLAND

(Mr. J. Koikkalainen, Minister of the Interior of Finland)

Anxiety over the future of the environment has emphasized the growing need for international co-operation on environmental problems which in many fields cannot be handled by individual countries alone, as it is explicitly recognized in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Transboundary air pollution is a good example of this need since environmentally deteriorating substances have spread over entire regions.

An essential means for tackling such region-wide environmental problems is the co-ordination and integration of national environmental policies. I should like to express the sincere appreciation of my Government for the work already done by the ECE in this field.

One can ask why these matters are dealt with by the Economic Commission for Europe. I think that one important reason for this is the fact that the repercussions of the prevailing patterns of production and consumption on future supplies of both renewable and non-renewable resources are not only a direct result of their increasing use but will depend also on environmental changes. Of special importance for Finland is the possible impact in forest growth caused by the long-range transport of air pollutants such as sulphur oxides. It is already well-known that acidification caused by these pollutants has seriously disturbed the biological life in an alarming number of lakes in Nordic countries.

For these reasons, I should like to stress once more the need of a closer integration and co-ordination of environmental policies, including particularly transboundary air pollution, within the ECE.

We are now about to take a decisive step in this direction when signing the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. That we are all present here today is, indeed, a clear indication of our common will and determination to carry out appropriate policies and strategies to curtail transboundary air pollution. I should like to emphasize that the importance of this is not limited to the progress in this particular field only. It appears reasonable to say that the political will, embodied in the Convention, gives rise to hope that other matters more easily regulated than long-range transboundary air pollution can be tackled along the same principles.

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is not only pioneer work in the field of environmental protection as a whole but also in the protection of atmospheric environment.

The Convention has a wide range of implications. For the environment, it is particularly important as a direct instrument in the protection of aquatic ecosystems. It is also important, probably more indirectly, for the protection of terrestrial ecosystems. In both respects the main purpose is the prevention of acidification.

The problems which have made it necessary to create a binding international instrument are mainly linked with the use of energy. A reduction of the long-range transport of air pollutants, in particular sulphur oxides, is not possible without reducing the emissions, particularly those from the combustion of fossil fuels. This was well recognised during the negotiations on the Convention. Realistic schemes for a practical and well-motivated system for the determination of the proportional amount by which the total emissions should be reduced at national level, however, have not yet been presented.

The link between transboundary air pollution and the production of energy is becoming increasingly important because of uncertainties in energy situation when shifting to emphasize the use of alternative energy resources, other than oil, is considered in many countries. All the implications of the Convention should be taken into account in such considerations. This means, for example, that a thorough environmental assessment should constitute an essential part of any evaluation on possible new policy orientations in the energy sector. Only in such a way will we be able to fulfil the main goal of this Convention, namely to limit and even gradually reduce and prevent long-range transboundary air pollution.

Decisions which have relevance for the implementation of the Convention are made at the national energy policy level. It is, therefore, very remarkable that the Governments of the ECE have manifested their clear political will to commit themselves to permanent co-operation for the protection of the environment against the adverse effects of the long-range transport of air pollutants.

The approval of the Convention, indeed in itself an important milestone, is but a first step. The real practical work remains to be done. This required resources for research and surveillance at the international as at the national level. But all the time - this I should like to underline - the spirit of co-operation which has prevailed during the preparation of this High-level Meeting will constantly be needed.

By definition, low- and non-waste technology has to adopt ways and means of using natural resources and energy to protect environment as rationally as possible. We consider the acceptance of this conception by all of us as a proof of the need for economic readjustment and new development trends. We consider adherence to this conception as a necessary means to make the use of natural resources and energy more effective, i.e. less wasteful, while preserving a healthy and prosperous environment. By observing the principles of low-waste and non-waste technology, we can guarantee coming generations, both in industrialized and developing countries, sufficient natural resources - both in qualitative and quantitative terms - and an environment worthy of human dignity.

My country expresses the hope that the Declaration we have together approved here will for its part lead to further development and progress in the low- and non-waste technology and see that it will result in new areas for co-operation and new ways for information exchange in this field.

One primary threat to the resources of the Earth has been caused by the consumption in the developed countries of four-fifths of the use of the non-renewable resources. Wasteful consumption which has been encouraged by low prices has hindered the development of space and recycling technologies and the use of substitutes. Such prices do not yet include the costs of environmental protection measures or they do not reflect the real value of the resources exploited. This pattern has to be changed.

14

Uncertainty as to the availability of resources has led to the first generation of low- and non-waste technologies. Obvious threats of exhaustion of the oil resources of the world have begun to result in decisive actions compelling people to accept a change, both in life-style as well as in technologies.

Several important issues of environmental protection and policy were discussed during the preparatory stage of this High-level Meeting. My Government considered the water problems and the protection of flora and fauna of particular interest. It is important within the ECE to make the activities in the field of water resources management and water pollution control more effective and extend them in line with the recommendations and resolutions of the 1977 United Nations Water Conference. In this respect the completion of the preparatory work on the ECE Declaration of Policy on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution is an important step. We must also realize the limitation of the successful protection of plant and animal species exclusively as well as the inadequacy of nature conservation measures at national level only. Therefore Finland supports the concept that the future work programme of the ECE be expanded to include also the protection of flora and fauna and their habitats as an integral part of a balanced environmental development in the ECE region.

The present High-level Meeting affirms the all-important role of the ECE, but at the same time for reasons due to its international dimensions, it must be placed in the proper context of European co-operation. Already at an early stage, Finland has stressed the necessity to support intensified co-operation within the ECE on the basis of the Final Act of the CSCE. The Final Act extensively covers the environmental problems relevant to industrialized nations and contains specific recommendations in this respect. Finland believes that tackling the growing environmental problems jointly without regard to whatever dividing lines between groups of states on our continent is an important achievement in the spirit of the CSCE. The environmental provisions laid out in the Final Act provide an opening in this respect. The present work of defining remaining problems requiring more anticipatory and preventive policies for environmental management is a most important contribution to the process of meaningful co-operation between our countries. The Convention is indeed a proof that the Final Act has led to concrete action.

At the same time when we together emphasize the importance of the ECE in carrying out the many implications of the Final Act, we must remember the unavoidable strain on resources thus created. In most instances the resources of the ECE secretariat at hand have been sufficient to meet the additional requirements. This has in part been assisted through an arrangement between the ECE and the UNEP.

We must insist on the prolongation of the co-operative arrangement so as to ensure that during the interim period, i.e. between signature and entry into force of the Convention, the function of the secretariat would continue. In addition to this, we also anticipate considerable expansion in the ECE activities in the entire field of environment. At this stage we need a clear commitment by this meeting and the prior assurance of ECE that all assigned tasks will be fulfilled. It would be contrary to the spirit of the High-level Meeting, if assignments will be left unimplemented due to lack of resources.

Spurring without undue delay the sufficient resources is all the more important because we have decided to initiate as soon as possible and on an interim basis the provisional implementation of the Convention and to carry out the obligations arising therefrom to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force. In this context we would also like to stress the other elements of the resolution which we have adopted today. The entire contents of the resolution should be fully implemented.

Neglecting environmental considerations endangers even short-term achievements in economic development. Long-term results can only be achieved by careful planning and taking environmental aspects fully into consideration.

Environmental policies, thought earlier to reduce productivity are now accepted as not necessarily limiting economic growth. It is also accepted that resource management policies promote rather than hamper growth. It may, however, be that the weights and measures of growth must be revised to include the life quality dimension. We should not only say that new patterns of development and new life-styles are called for, we shall live up to it; major responsibility for finding new patterns lies with the developed countries. It is for our region to come forward with recommendations and to propose solutions.

But, indeed, recommendations in themselves are not sufficient. Political decisions must be taken on two levels - on an international level, as we are doing now, and on the national level when we get down to implementing our Convention. We firmly believe that by solving problems that especially our region faces, we would be able to benefit our Planet.

HUNGARY
HONGRIE
ВЕНГРИЯ

(Mr. B.F. Straub, Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Chairman of the National Council for Environment and Nature Protection of Hungary)

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic has from the very beginning attached utmost importance to the convening of all-European high-level meetings on questions being of great concern for all countries of our region, that is on the topics of environment, energy and transport as proposed by the Soviet Union at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe. My Government highly appreciates the joint and co-operative efforts the ECE member countries made in the field of environment protection in full compliance with the word and spirit of the Helsinki Final Act. We are convinced that the High-level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment will be marked as a significant milestone in the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act, and an important contribution to long-term scientific, technical and economic co-operation between East and West. Our Meeting can, at the same time further stimulate the solution of other problems calling for co-operative efforts on an all-European scale.

There is growing awareness that there is no other rational alternative for détente in the international sphere than the recognition that the co-operation between countries with different economic and social systems plays an ever increasing part. This interrelationship between détente and economic co-operation has been very clearly pointed out by the Helsinki Final Act, an outstanding event in the process of détente. It has, among others, also defined the prospects of long-term economic, scientific, technical and environmental co-operation among the 35 signatory States. Due to these facts new perspectives for co-operation between the countries of our region are becoming more and more distinct.

Our present Meeting covers a sphere of problems which equally concerns each of our countries, and this is environment protection. Due to their geographic endowments, economic and other potentialities, the countries of the region have in common in the field of environment protection, in spite of the fact that considerable differences exist even within one country, regarding the relation between man and his environment. Therefore the fact how and to what extent these countries are ready to co-operate in the field of environment protection is a question of political determination motivated by economic and social necessities as well.

The geographic location of Hungary, its extensive industrial and agricultural development, motorization and dynamic increase of tourism have considerably influenced the degree of pollution in our country. Out of the measures taken during the past years to reduce and prevent environmental damages let me mention the following: the Government has established a National Council for Environment Protection and Nature Conservation and the National Authority for Environment Protection and Nature Conservation; environment protection is now an integrated part of the five-year national economic plans; we have formulated a national research programme and a system of requirements for environment protection, including long-term tasks to improve the welfare of the people of Hungary, is being elaborated.

The Hungarian Parliament has passed the Act of 1976 on the Protection of Human Environment, elaborated in the light of the Helsinki recommendations. This Act covers the question in its complexity: it foresees the general protection of soil, water, air, flora and fauna, landscape and human settlements; it also determines the different forms of legal responsibility. Due to the fact that effective protection of the environment needs co-operation beyond the national borders of a country, the Act also makes provision for Hungary to contribute to the strengthening of international co-operation in this field.

Hungary places great emphasis on the environmental co-operation within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. Hungary has been assigned to co-ordinate waste management as one of the 13 problem areas of the CMEA programme.

From the very beginning we have been taking part in the activities on environmental problems within the framework of ECE.

Hungary maintains fruitful bilateral environmental co-operation with a number of western countries, among others with Sweden and Austria.

All these activities receive the full understanding and active assistance of our whole society: youth organisations, the Patriotic People's Front and the media follow them with great attention.

Due to meteorological factors many pollutants reach our country from the north-west. In international comparisons Hungary does not belong to the countries with high pollution level. Despite this fact we have a lot to do to improve the air quality conditions of the country. Although, as a result of our work the emission of solid pollutants will be reduced as from 1980, we still have to make efforts, first of all, to counteract the probable increase of sulphur dioxide pollution.

The application of low-waste technologies and the re-use of wastes as secondary raw materials, promote not only the rational use of natural resources and energy saving but the prevention of environmental damage as well.

These were only some of the reasons we were guided by, when we decided:

- to sign the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, to accept the relevant Resolution, and
- to adopt the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilisation and Re-cycling of Wastes.

On this occasion let me express the satisfaction of the Hungarian Government for the spirit of co-operation among the ECE member countries which prevailed during the preparation of our present High-level Meeting. At the same time let me express the appreciation of my Government for the efforts made by the Secretariat of the Commission and personally by its Executive Secretary to the elaboration of these documents.

141

Beside air quality protection, the preservation of water resources and the prevention of water pollution play a most important role in human life. Examining the economic and geographical situation of Europe, it is obvious that the solution of existing and constantly increasing water quality problems is beyond the scope of individual countries. This recognition has also been clearly pointed out in the chapter on environment of the Helsinki Final Act.

Nearly-five per cent of the surface water-streams of Hungary originate outside the country. That is why we are particularly interested in an all-European co-operation, aimed at the reduction of transboundary water pollution. In this respect we would welcome the earliest possible approval of the updated ECE Declaration of policy on prevention and control of water pollution of 1966. We believe that this Declaration, together with the already existing and the future bilateral and multilateral agreements, may serve as a basis for a possible all-European international convention on water quality protection.

Toxic substances crossing national borders through air and by water represent an ever increasing problem in the ECE region. On the basis of the proposal of the Soviet Union and other countries we consider it would be timely to have a thorough exchange of views on these questions.

In the course of economic development great attention should be paid to the protection of natural values in the interest of human life. The conservation of these values must form an integral part of the environment protection activity. Having this in mind we would support the examination of the problems of flora and fauna in the framework of ECE.

Since environmental problems have many aspects and their solution has a multidisciplinary character, our Meeting can be regarded as the first stage of a process which may be the forerunner of further co-operation on other open questions of topical interest in the field of environment. We believe that the successful outcome of our present meeting will contribute to the continuation of this process and lead to high-level meetings on energy and transport. The emergence of an all-European co-operation in these fields will have positive effects on the political and military components of European peace and security.

The greatest danger threatening human environment is the arms race, the halting of which and the beginning of a real disarmament process are key-issues of the stabilization and further development of détente in our time. Therefore we attach great importance to SALT II which, beyond its positive influence on the international climate, creates the basis for progress in the further limitation of strategic arms.

5

At the same time let us emphasize the importance of the initiatives for peace put forward recently by L. Brezhnev in Berlin. My Government is firmly convinced that the realization of these initiatives, affecting the very foundations of the European peoples' interest, will be a major contribution to the strengthening of peace and security in our region and all over the world.

In this context may I also refer to the suggestion made at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Pact member States held earlier this year in Budapest. It was proposed that the signatories of the Helsinki Final Act be convened at a conference on a high political level with the intention of strengthening the mutual confidence between the participating States and promoting détente.

In conclusion let me assure you that my Government considers this High-level Meeting as one of the important milestones on the road that has been covered since Helsinki. Therefore the participating countries at the Madrid meeting next year will be expected to give an account of the present Meeting as one of the important achievements. The Hungarian delegation will participate in the work of this Meeting with the conviction that the present discussions and their outcome will serve the basic interest of every nation and people in our region.

LUXEMBOURG

JMKCEMEVPT

(H. J. Rettel, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent du Luxembourg auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève)

Je voudrais souligner l'importance de ces réunions internationales à très haut niveau, contacts qui permettent de reconsidérer et, au besoin, de réorienter les options prises en matière d'environnement qui est un domaine en permanente évolution et requérant sans cesse des adaptations.

Au Luxembourg, nous vivons au milieu d'un continent de nations hautement industrialisées, et nous nous rendons compte que nous ne sommes pas suffisamment équipés pour réaliser de nos propres forces, sur un plan exclusivement national, l'oeuvre de recherche nécessaire et les mesures efficaces destinées à assurer à l'homme une qualité de vie digne de lui.

Après une première phase de politique plutôt curative, nous procédons maintenant à la mise en oeuvre d'actions principalement préventives, axées sur une gestion globale du milieu qui nous entoure et de ses ressources.

Nous avons adopté une législation sectorielle couvrant les domaines de la pollution de l'eau, de l'air, la lutte contre le bruit et les gestions des déchets, la protection de la nature et du paysage.

La nouvelle législation met un accent spécial sur l'établissement d'études d'impact sur l'environnement préalablement à de nouvelles implantations industrielles et autres, ce qui marque la transition progressive vers la seconde génération de politique de l'environnement axée sur la prévention et se concentrant davantage sur la planification dans le cadre général de l'aménagement du territoire. Cette seconde étape pour la conception générale de la politique de l'environnement constitue la base pour arriver non seulement à la stabilisation du processus de dégradation, mais pour remonter graduellement la pente. Par le biais de la planification, la protection de l'environnement s'intègre dans le contexte socio-économique général du pays et n'est plus considérée comme un problème inévitable et secondaire.

Un deuxième volet d'une politique axée sur la prévention est constitué par la promotion du recyclage et de la récupération de matériaux usagés. Actuellement notre pays est en train de promouvoir le recyclage du papier, du verre et des huiles usées tout en encourageant, dans la mesure du possible, les économies d'énergie.

Enfin, il convient de souligner l'importance de la prise de conscience de l'opinion publique à l'égard des problèmes de l'environnement et l'influence grandissante du facteur environnement dans les prises de décisions des autorités publiques, conscientes que l'environnement ne représente pas une ressource inépuisable et gratuite, mais un bien commun qu'il faut protéger par des moyens variés et préventifs ou, à défaut, curatifs.

En tant que ressortissants d'un petit pays, nous sommes particulièrement conscients que les effets de la pollution ne connaissent pas de frontières et nous sommes convaincus qu'il importe de traiter ces problèmes au niveau international en leur assurant des solutions harmonisées.

A cet égard, je ne voudrais pas manquer de relever la coopération au sein de la Communauté européenne que Monsieur le Ministre Barnett, Président en exercice du Conseil des ministres, a évoquée si éloquemment au cours de la réunion de ce matin.

La Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance que nous venons d'adopter au cours de cette réunion à haut niveau dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe - réunion dont l'ordre du jour a été soigneusement préparé en vue d'aboutir à des décisions importantes - constitue une preuve éminente de cette coopération internationale et un gage de la vitalité de notre Commission.

La Convention en voie de signature aidera nos autorités à mettre en oeuvre des politiques de limitation et de réduction de la pollution atmosphérique et de collaborer ainsi à l'effort de coopération des Etats de la région Europe.

CANADA
КАНАДА

(Mr. J. Fraser, Minister of the Environment of Canada)

As Minister of the Environment for Canada, I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of my country to the member countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. I take particular pleasure, on this occasion, in signing on behalf of Canada, this first international Convention on transboundary air pollution. It is indeed appropriate that this significant achievement is taking place under the sponsorship of the United Nations, an organization which was created to bridge the boundaries of sovereign nations in the greater interests of mankind. Man's environment has a sometimes distressing way of ignoring man's political boundaries, thereby requiring international co-operation of the type witnessed in the preparation of this Convention and envisaged in its follow-up. It is hardly surprising therefore, given their global nature, that environmental issues have provided the basis for this historic high level meeting on the protection of the environment, a striking example of the type of east-west co-operation foreseen in the 1975 Helsinki Agreement on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, Governments agreed upon a Declaration which, in its preamble, proclaimed that "man has acquired the power to transform his environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale". Of the 26 principles contained in the Declaration, principle 21 is of particular interest today; it says that "States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction". The present Convention is a milestone in the development of international co-operation to meet that challenge. It is recognized that responsibility for the environment must be accepted and shared at every level, the individual, the community, institutions, business, Governments (local and national) and international organizations.

The reason for this instrument of co-operation is the concern over the alarming increase in acidic precipitation in large parts of Europe and North America. Early awareness of a potential acidification problem in North America was heightened by studies in Europe particularly in Scandinavia. I must say that much credit for having this Convention before us today must go to Norway and to your country, Mr. Chairman, for keeping this issue high on the agenda of the senior advisers on environmental problems. In Canada, we embarked on a comprehensive scientific programme two years ago in order to gain a clearer understanding of as many aspects as possible of what we have come to recognize as a very complex problem. At this time, the precise nature and extent of the potential damage cannot be scientifically proven. But the continuously emerging evidence gives cause for even more serious concerns. Not the least of these is the possibility that by the time some effects become manifest and irrefutable, the damage could be irreversible. I am speaking here not only of those demonstrated effects on lakes and rivers, and their fish populations, but also the possibility that agricultural and forest productivity may be impaired.

Acidic precipitation is but one manifestation of the long range transport of airborne pollutants. Transportation over long distances of fine particulates containing such substances as lead, mercury and polycyclic organic matter may pose a threat not only to the flora and fauna but also to human health. The increase of photo-chemical oxidant concentrations is also emerging as a regional pollution problem in both Europe and North America. Going beyond the regional issues of long range transport, there are global air pollution problems of growing concern. Combustion of fossil fuel on a world-wide basis is known to be producing a global increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations which may influence the earth's heat balance and cause climate changes with far reaching consequences. The increasingly widespread contamination from synthetic chemicals, especially pesticides, with their potential ecological and human health implications, is another global concern we will have to confront. The variety of these chemicals is increasing, and our knowledge of their toxicity and impact on the environment is in many cases inadequate, especially under conditions of exposure at low levels over long periods of time.

Representatives of the Government of Canada participated actively in the development of this Convention. Just as in Europe, where air pollution problems are almost invariably international in character, air pollution in North America is oblivious to the long border between my country and the United States of America. Consistent with the intent of this Convention, the Governments of both countries have recognized the need to co-operate in addressing long range transboundary airborne pollution in the North American context. In 1972, we established a joint scientific research consultative group to develop a mutually agreed scientific data base. We are now examining appropriate strategies to control and to reduce emissions of acid causing pollutants. In mentioning these efforts to combat what I perceive to be one of the most serious environmental problems ever faced in Canada, I fully recognize that solutions will be neither easy nor inexpensive. Delay, however, will only make the ultimate solution more costly both in monetary and environmental terms. In fact, to delay may result in the ecological damage becoming irreversible.

During periods of economic uncertainty, there are constraints on both domestic programmes and international co-operation when it comes to committing resources to deal with environmental issues. Because these issues affect all of us, but in different ways and to different degrees, the costs and the benefits of corrective measures are never easily quantifiable. While this is the case at the best of times, the pressure to relax environmental controls is even more intense when energy and economic difficulties demand the immediate attention of most Governments. At the heart of the matter therefore, is the will of our citizens to remain committed to environmental preservation in the face of other equally serious, and generally more immediate threats to society. A recent analysis of public opinion in Canada shows clearly the persistent conviction that the preservation of a healthy environment is a fundamental goal of Canadians, notwithstanding the imperatives of the economy and energy. Indeed our people are not seeking a trade-off between the economy and environment, but rather economic development that preserves the quality of our environment for the benefit of both present and future generations. While development/environment issues cannot be addressed without careful consideration of the available scientific data, any proposed solutions must also take into consideration the related short-term and long-term social, economic and political implications of such proposed measures. It is therefore incumbent upon our Governments to find means of integrating these various concerns in dealing with development/environment issues in both their domestic and international manifestations.

We recognize that the maintenance of the quality of our environment is inevitably a factor in shaping the future economic outlook for Canada, and perhaps for the world. In fact, we accept without question the close relationship between energy and environment. There are two sides to this coin. One is the capacity of the environment to accept the impact of energy production, transportation and use, so that limits to energy development will, in some cases, be set by environmental factors. The other is, how appropriate use of the environment, including our renewable resources, can contribute to energy production on a sustained basis. In both cases, environmental quality and energy development potential are intimately interrelated. Our challenge is to adapt technology to ensure that our common concerns for environmental quality and energy supply are well integrated.

It is clear, therefore, that we are now beginning to understand the complex nature of certain environmental issues and the link between environment and development. The need is not to try to find the compromise that will allow for a "bit of environment" and a "bit of development". Instead, we must seek out the options that will lead to the right kind of development - development that is in harmony with the environment. This is no longer a matter of choice but of necessity.

There is increasing evidence that we share this preception internationally as we work constructively and co-operatively together, step by step. I was delighted to learn of the recent seminar on environmental impact assessment held in Austria under the auspices of the senior advisers on environmental problems. This is an example of practical co-operation in matters of mutual interest. Furthermore, the Declaration on low and non-waste technology which we are also considering at this meeting represents another important contribution to such co-operation. In this respect, the foresight shown by the senior advisers, in organizing the 1976 Paris seminar on low and non-waste technology, should not go unnoticed. We look forward to seeing the compendium on low and non-waste technologies nearing completion, and have no doubt that it will prove valuable.

But if the urgency attaching to problems such as that of acidic precipitation is increasingly acknowledged, and if we accept that their solution is not a trade-off between economic development and environmental well-being, there is still much to do. The real implementation of the Convention we are adopting here will come about through changes in national policies of signatory Governments. Some, whose publics are particularly alert to the problem, are ready to move promptly; but others, fearful of economic or commercial consequences, are not yet ready to proceed so rapidly. To these latter Governments, the Government of Canada addresses an urgent appeal: let us not limit ourselves to actions with lowest common denominators. We cannot afford simply to accept an obligation only to do that which all others will do. Our environmental problems frequently differ. Accordingly, both the nature and the magnitude of the solutions appropriate to them must also differ. The moral obligation imposed upon us by this Convention is to do what is necessary to contain these problems, for the good of our own people and those of neighbouring States.

It is in this spirit of co-operation that I have come to Geneva to add Canada's support to this international milestone in the efforts to protect and enhance environmental quality. At Stockholm, Governments declared that States have an obligation to prevent damage to the environment of neighbouring States from activities conducted within their own territory. At the time, I believe most people thought of that principle in terms of situations where cause and effect could be easily related. We now recognize that the issue is more complex and that there is a need for collective action to combat both regional and global environmental deterioration resulting from the combined effect of many indistinguishable sources.

Protection of the global environment can only be achieved by a combination of diligent domestic programmes and a willingness to participate actively, co-operatively and substantively in the growing international effort to achieve this goal. This is not going to be easy. The labours of giving birth to a Convention such as the one before us today show clearly how difficult it is to achieve consensus even when the issue is well-understood and there is an agreed intent to work together co-operatively.

I am happy to say that as evidence that Canadians can work together, it is significant that two distinguished Members of Parliament, Mr. Maurice Harguail and Mr. Derek Blackburn, representing opposition Parties, have accompanied me here to Geneva to illustrate the unanimity of purpose within the Canadian Parliament.

The fact that the Convention is now in place is a sign of hope. It is certainly an indication of initial success - and a bright marker along the difficult and challenging path ahead.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
СОЕДИНЕННОЕ КОРОЛЕВСТВО ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ И СЕВЕРНОЙ ИРЛАНДИИ

(Mr. H. Fox, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department of the Environment
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

It is a great pleasure for me, on my first visit to Geneva, to be leading my Government's delegation to this High Level Meeting within the framework of the ECE and, in speaking for the United Kingdom, I of course fully associate myself with what was said on behalf of the Community by Mr. Barrett, the Irish Minister of the Environment.

Europe gave birth to the first industrial revolution, from which all of us have benefited enormously: it has also been the first region to see the rapid growth and spread of formidable new environmental problems, with some of which we are only just beginning to grapple. The Final Act of Helsinki recognized that protection and improvement of the environment is a task of major importance to the well-being of the peoples of Europe and that many of the environmental problems which beset us can only be effectively solved through close international co-operation. It also recognized the advantage of the possibilities offered by relevant international organizations, and in particular by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, for giving effect to its provisions. I should like to pay tribute to our distinguished Executive Secretary, Mr. Stanovnik, and the Secretariat for being instrumental in bringing about this meeting.

But meetings, as such, are only of value if they have positive results. The ground rules for international co-operation in the environment field were laid down at the Stockholm Conference, from which so much has flowed. The need has been to put these ground rules into practical effect. Many international bodies, including other competent United Nations organs, are active in the environmental field. The ECE very sensibly and rightly decided that there was no need to reinforce the purposeful activities of its Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems with a high level meeting unless and until extra criteria had been met.

Out of the ensuing discussions have emerged the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the Declaration of Intent on Low and Non-waste Technology which have been adopted at this meeting.

Like other industrialized countries, we in the United Kingdom have acknowledged and worked hard to overcome the problems of air pollution. And we have been largely successful, domestically. Since the London smog in the early 1950s, some 7 million buildings have been covered by smoke control orders. These are primarily directed at smoke, and have achieved dramatic results in increasing the amount of sunshine enjoyed by our cities, but they also have a side effect in reducing sulphur dioxide concentrations. It is the concentrations of both these pollutants which have always been seen as the major hazard to human health. A combination of policies has resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in average urban concentrations of sulphur dioxide in the United Kingdom over the past 15 years.

But it has been recognized that there is an increasing international dimension to the problems posed by SO_2 , especially in those parts of the world where the buffering capacity of the environment is inadequate to cope with acid precipitation. These are complex matters, on which there are as yet no clear answers. I congratulate the Senior Advisers and the ECE secretariat on uniting a wide diversity of interests in production of a document, the Convention, which, in our view, adopts a balanced approach.

We all know that the combustion of fossil fuels is a main source of transboundary air pollutants, but we do not know to what extent these pollutants are responsible for the fish kills and reductions in fish stocks that have been reported. We also know the benefits in the form of readily available energy deriving from the use of these same fuels, but we remain uncertain how to eliminate environmental disbenefits without running up against disproportionate costs and other problems. For the moment we have oil, but world supplies may well have peaked by the turn of the century. The problems involved in effecting a smooth transition to greater dependence on fuels other than oil add to the complexity of achieving an acceptable balance between environmental and other objectives. Such a balance has to be struck.

In order to achieve it, we have first to establish the facts. And here, in my Government's view, the Convention follows a sensible order of priority. We must first improve our understanding of the behaviour of sulphur dioxide, and other pollutants, in the atmosphere and the resulting effects on man and on his environment. We need, at the same time, to consider the whole range of possible countervailing actions. These range from improved methods of fuel processing and combustion - in which my country is playing a leading role - through to local remedies, where appropriate, taking account of costs and likely effectiveness. Only when we are armed with the facts can we effectively further develop national policies and strategies for dealing with air pollution.

For these reasons my Government is ready to play a full part in a co-operative programme of research, monitoring and exchange of information with others and will be pleased to offer its full share of expert help. The United Kingdom is already engaged in a substantial programme of research covering such diverse areas as fuel consumption forecasts, emission inventories, atmospheric chemistry and meteorology, and the effects of air pollutants on health, on crops, on forests, on freshwaters and on soils. Based on the findings of our research programme and on work being done in other countries, we are preparing a major United Kingdom document which we hope will be published during next year.

Meanwhile we look forward to the Executive Body, to be set up under the Convention, becoming the main forum for continuing discussions and consultations on transboundary air pollution in the ECE region.

I now turn to the other main document before us at this meeting: the Declaration on low and non-waste technology and the re-cycling and re-utilization of waste. I am pleased that after considerable efforts by the Senior Advisers and the secretariat over the past year it has been possible to reach agreement on this Declaration. Without doubt, man must achieve a more rational use of finite resources and must reduce the amount of waste released to the environment.

The agreement calls for co-operation and further effort in this area from the extraction of raw materials through the production process itself and on to the re-cycling and re-utilization of wastes. The United Kingdom fully endorses these aims. Agreement on the Declaration at this Meeting emphasizes the concern that is attached to this subject throughout the ECE region. The States represented here are amongst the most heavily industrialized and the wealthiest in the world, and it is fitting that initiatives to reduce the impact of industry on the Earth's resources and environment should originate within the ECE.

For its own part the United Kingdom's history of concern about waste dates back more than a century. This concern has culminated in statutory provisions which provide for comprehensive controls on waste disposal. We have also been particularly active in the field of re-cycling and re-utilization of wastes. In 1974 a Waste Management Advisory Council was set up. The priorities for action drawn up by this body form the basis of a national anti-waste programme which aims to increase public awareness of resource conservation and to encourage re-cycling by industry. Additionally the Government funds a large research programme.

Within industry large quantities of re-cycled materials are already in use, but there are, of course, constraints on the extent to which re-cycling may be undertaken. Other economic and social goals must be taken into account in deciding what resources can reasonably be devoted to low waste technology. I am pleased to see that the Declaration recognizes this point. Overall I am convinced that the development of the expertise and information called for in the Declaration will be of great value to Member States.

Air pollution and the problems of waste are not of course the only environmental problems of international significance. The Final Act listed a number. But the ECE decided, rightly in my view, that only two were suitable for discussion in depth and decision at this meeting. In the case of transboundary water pollution, for instance, I understand that the ECE's Committee on Water Problems is to meet next week to consider a Declaration on the matter.

Similar considerations apply in the case of flora and fauna. Our awareness of the need for conservation of the natural environment has increased greatly in the past 30 years. During that period, there has been an unprecedented increase in the use of the countryside for recreation, in agricultural efficiency and in urban development. In consequence we have lost many of our native flora and fauna and remaining natural areas. It is my Government's firm belief that unless careful regard is given to our ecosystems, there can be ecological chain reactions affecting human populations and spreading well beyond the boundaries of one country.

But there is already much activity in the international field. The United Kingdom has recently signed the Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Earlier we signed the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, and here I must congratulate the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for their efforts in producing a Convention of such wide international application. I am convinced that if we are to ensure the conservation of our flora and fauna we must sustain such co-operation between countries, but whether the ECE has a substantial role to play is open to question. I understand there is to be a meeting in January to consider what this role might be. Again it would, I think, be premature for us to become involved deeply in discussion of this topic at this time.

One of the most active environmental issues internationally is the control of toxic substances. Governments have been controlling chemicals in different sectors of the environment for many years but - and this is new - we are now trying to prevent problems arising rather than react to them. This shift in emphasis places responsibilities both on manufacturers and on Governments. The same considerations apply to toxic wastes where our legislation is designed to ensure that potential hazards are avoided and not simply dealt with once they have occurred.

Extensive international work is already in train to harmonize procedures for the notification and development of information on new chemicals and to co-ordinate testing procedures. In the face of this international effort, the ECE has wisely decided to participate in existing programmes. The United Kingdom applauds this decision since we should never allow duplication of international activity to reduce our chances of achieving our original objective - the protection of man and his environment - through dilution and dispersal of effort.

With the Convention and its associated Resolution, and the Declaration we are taking the first steps in a new direction, widening and deepening the co-operation already achieved by ECE members, irrespective of their economic and social systems. In a speech in Luxembourg which attracted much interest, my Prime Minister said that east and west should co-operate where interests coincide; environment is one such area. At each step, we need to consolidate the knowledge gained and to supplement it with the wisdom that comes with practical experience. The United Kingdom looks forward to participating in these new ventures. They will reinforce the international interchanges in which we already take part, from bilateral arrangements such as we enjoy with the Soviet Union to global discussions such as those undertaken at UNEP. My Government intends to continue to play a full part in deliberations on environmental issues both within ECE and within other international bodies, because we recognize - and I am sure this view is shared by all at this meeting - that the environment is one; that we are interdependent; and that we must join in responding to environmental threats both for our own sakes and for those of future generations.

11/57

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
TCHECOSLOVAQUIE
ČESKOSLOVENSKO

(Mr. J. Hanzus, Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Socialist Republic)

It is a great honour for me to address this forum of high-level State representatives on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation and to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairman and Rapporteurs on your election to the Bureau of the Meeting. At the same time, I would like to assure you of our full support.

And now please allow me to inform you on the Czechoslovak standpoint regarding the convening of this High-level Meeting.

The adverse impacts of civilizational effects on human health, the growing exploitation of natural resources and especially sources of energy, have become a global, world-wide problem. The solving of these problems now in many cases exceeds the scientific and technological possibilities even in the most highly developed countries. The convening of the High-level Meeting within the Framework of the ECE on the Protection of the Environment may be considered, therefore, as an effort and willingness on the part of the participants to cope with these problems jointly and, what is of particular importance, by employing new, higher forms of international co-operation.

The High-level Meeting concludes a certain stage of the development of international co-operation in the field of environmental protection and care, which was commenced at the Prague symposium of the Economic Commission for Europe of United Nations in 1971 and at the United Nations Conference on the Environment held in Stockholm a year later. The participants in this Meeting, being aware of their responsibility for the development of the state of the environment, wish to intensify common efforts and co-operation in this field, and to integrate these activities of individual countries of the ECE region related to scientific and technological development, which surpass the activity and possibilities of the existing governmental and non-governmental organisations, specialized in protection of the environment.

The topics for deliberation at the High-level Meeting, namely the solving of long-range transboundary air pollution problems and initiating of research and development on low- and non-waste technology which had been carried out by the Economic Commission for Europe in the preparatory stages under the direct supervision of its Executive Secretary, Mr. James Stenmark, have been chosen correctly.

I am glad to be able to state, on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation, that my Government welcomes the above-mentioned activities.

As regards the Convention and Resolution on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, I consider this document to be an act of great significance since it constitutes, within the framework of intentions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, a concrete basis for widespread international co-operation on such an important issue as the protection of air quality. In the forthcoming years this international Convention will be an actual guideline for all industrially developed countries throughout the world.

It is to be appreciated that our deliberation on the Convention and Resolution on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, as the most momentous document of the Meeting, is accompanied by the sanction of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes, which points the way how proper conditions for this international legislative superstructure can be carried out within the scientific-technical bases. The adoption of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes may be considered as an event of exceptional significance. It is the first time that joint effort of such an extent is devoted to the development of appropriate conditions for accelerating the research and development of technological processes which will not only have no adverse impacts on the environment but will also contribute to preservation of natural resources, including sources of energy. In my opinion, this is a very positive aspect of our discussion. In this connexion, I do not think it is necessary to emphasize the fact that successful implementation of any political or legislative measure adopted on an international basis in the field of environmental protection, will be directly dependent on the level of international co-operation. In this respect the Meeting provides important indications to the relevant international agencies dealing with environmental issues, namely to the United Nations Environment Programme and Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems on how to orientate their further activities.

The realization phase of so-called follow-up activities will not be easy, since in our relations there still exist some obstacles which should be overcome as quickly as possible. However, judging by the recent dialogue, I assume that we will succeed. The general atmosphere of the High-level Meeting makes me convinced that the measure set forth in the documents prepared for the Meeting will be thoroughly elaborated and implemented. On behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation, I assure you that the relevant tasks assigned to us will be duly fulfilled in accordance with our technological and economic possibilities.

In our Czechoslovak Socialist Republic we are continually devoting much attention to the solving of environmental protection problems. The protection and enhancement of the environment have become priority tasks in the State's programme of development. Sums amounting to many milliards of Czechoslovak crowns are provided in the budget for related problems as well as for various activities aimed at ensuring environmental protection. At the same time, we are trying to balance and harmonize ecological and economic requirements connected with the overall development of our society. In practice this means, for instance, that if a project for new construction and/or new production programmes, following a comprehensive evaluation for given conditions appears to be economically ineffective, due to the high cost of remedial measures for environmental protection, the effectiveness could not be increased by omitting some or all of the required remedial measures.

Therefore, we in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, in our programmes of new construction, carefully deliberate and evaluate all aspects of ecological optimization of land use. Likewise, in research work, considerable attention is being paid to the study of problems pertaining to ecosystems and their burdens, especially in a landscape encumbered with intensive industrial and agricultural production.

Research work carried out in this connexion, for instance, includes continuous development of the unified systems for monitoring the pollution of the environment and its components, further elaboration of methods for ecological monitoring, solving of problems concerning the typification and regionalization of the territory,

investigation of the progressive methods for comprehensive environmental quality management, etc. All these activities are aimed at ensuring ecological stability under the conditions of the dynamic development of the society.

We assume that we are capable of actively contributing to international co-operation in the sense of the aforementioned documents of the Meeting and we are also prepared to co-operate in other fields of environmental protection. We have a well-developed research base set up for this purpose as well as pertinent administrative, legislative and economic instruments.

In conclusion, I should like to note that in the course of the preparation of this Meeting also some other areas of environmental problems which deserve our attention have been indicated. These include, for instance, control of toxic substances and toxic wastes and the proposal brought forward by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic to deal with problems related to investigation of new methods for protection of native flora and fauna and their habitats by a comprehensive protection of ecosystems from adverse impacts of civilization effects and to study the questions of increasing the productivity and usability of landscape environment. I am sure that these important signals will be taken into account by all agencies of the United Nations Organization and that the conclusions of this Meeting will stimulate corresponding multilateral and bilateral international co-operation.

The convening of this High-level Meeting within the Framework of the ECE on the Protection of the Environment confirms the fact that the ideas of co-operation, embedded in the Final Act, are being further developed and it is only to be wished that this should take place also in the other areas discussed at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

(Mr. M. Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme)

I am extremely gratified by this opportunity to share with you, our principal allies and supporters, how we in UNEP view the crucial issues you are discussing in this very important meeting. This is not only because close to 90 per cent of the financial support for the United Nations Environment Fund comes from the countries which make up this Commission, it is principally because the intellectual contribution to UNEP from this region over the years is of the greatest significance and is thus uppermost in my mind. The topics you are discussing in this meeting rank very high on the list of priorities of UNEP, and any important co-operative effort between countries of this region naturally induces important vibrations in other regions of the world.

We consider the preparatory process for this meeting a significant step forward. It brought further into focus the following facts:

1. that environmental problems you face are acute and urgent;
2. that many of these environmental problems have outgrown the capacity of any one country to cope with them unilaterally. Many are beyond the ability of even groups of nations to solve. This has dramatized the fact that "Only One Earth" is not just another slogan or pious inspiration. It is now the sober reality to which we must accommodate in our political, economic and social arrangements;
3. that the solution of many environmental problems require appropriate decisions and their implementation at a high level ... and
4. that despite the global nature of a number of environmental problems the most effective approach in dealing with a great many of these is the regional approach.

Let me touch briefly on the various items on your agenda. UNEP welcomes the adoption and actual signing of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution as the first concrete example of an attempt on a region-wide basis to mitigate the effects of air pollution through international co-operation. It is obvious that the problem of atmospheric pollution has much wider impacts than was originally thought, with environmental consequences beyond national borders.

We are aware that some of you may consider that the Convention is perhaps not as strong as might be desired with respect to international control measures. But we are also aware of the need for further investigations in various areas to justify such measures. I am sure action in the direction of international control measures will be undertaken as soon as research and monitoring shows more clearly that such action is warranted.

A number of important activities related to this subject have been or are still being carried out, or even being developed. Examples are: The OECD Co-operative Programme to measure the long-range transport of air pollutants launched in 1972; the ECE Co-operative Programme on Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe, launched in 1978 and supported by UNEP; the large networks of air pollution monitoring stations co-ordinated by WMO in co-operation with UNEP; the assessment of effects of air-borne pollutants on human health under the environmental health criteria programme jointly sponsored by WHO and UNEP; and the activities we intend to develop on assessment of effects of various types of air-borne pollutants on vegetation, particularly agricultural and forest crops, as a follow-up to the Symposium organized by ECE and UNEP last August.

But, despite the existence of many individual activities, some of which I have just mentioned, our knowledge about long-range transport of pollution in the atmosphere and, in particular, its effects on the natural environment is still quite limited. Problems which require further research and monitoring both at the national and international levels are known to you. Top among them are the formation of acid rains and their impact on forests, agricultural land, soil and fresh water. Within our means we would seriously consider co-operation in efforts to fill in such gaps.

The second item on your agenda is low and non-waste technology. As part of the Community of Nations you declared this summer at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development that "the industrialized countries have, through their control of science and technology, provided themselves with an immense power to enhance the human environment, increase production and improve the standard of living of their population. However, their production and consumption patterns have led to a waste of resources and often carried with them negative social and environmental consequences".

Search for alternatives to these patterns is the central theme for the seminars we are conducting this year with regional commissions on alternative patterns of development and lifestyles. We have very high hopes that the seminar with ECE, to be held early next month, will lead to very concrete recommendations. The Declaration you have just adopted clearly seeks viable solutions to these difficult problems. It is a commendable programme of action covering policy, substance, public awareness, information exchange and institutional arrangements. You are quite right in stating that its implementation will be of great interest and value to other regions of the world. And we are extremely gratified that you note in the Declaration that ECE activities in this field are part of the programme for development of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies under the auspices of UNEP in co-operation with other international organizations.

Development and selection of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies, particularly resource- and energy-conserving ones, for various sectors of development, can, as the Declaration rightly indicates, play a key role in alleviating a number of social and environmental problems inherent in the use of present-day technologies. But the concept of appropriateness arises only when one specifies appropriate to what or to whom. We reject the purely economic view of appropriateness in relation to capital and labour endowments of a region or a country. This is narrow, restricted and one-dimensional. We believe, as you do, that assessment of appropriateness necessitates a three-dimensional view in which the environmental and social dimensions are no less important than the economic one.

The great need to provide more information about low-waste and non-waste technologies and re-utilization and recycling of wastes which have been developed and used cannot be over-emphasized. UNEP has been co-operating with ECE in "the compilation and dissemination of available up-to-date knowledge concerning low and non-waste technologies in the ECE region". We will co-operate further in the "development of methods and criteria for assessment and comparative analysis of non-waste technologies". In this connexion, we welcome your intention to promote at the national level the development of methods for assessment of economic, social and environmental impacts of low and non-waste technology, applicable in countries with differing economic and social systems. Such efforts, we are convinced, will not only reinforce our own work in this regard, but could provide very useful data whereby it would be possible to assess transboundary impacts of such technology. The results of these activities could be of great use, not only to ECE member nations, but also for developing countries.

Before leaving this subject, there is one dimension which is not specifically on your agenda but which is of deep concern to us in UNEP and one which I have no doubt you will want to address as appropriate in the future. And here I refer to another kind of transfrontier pollution: what I would call the "long-range transboundary pollution by transfer of hazardous technologies".

My sense of urgency was conveyed in my State of the Environment Reports for the last two years in succession. I shall not try to minimize the complexity of this question. But I want to emphasize the need for standards, a better co-ordination of policy and an enhancement of the capacities of developing countries to effectively utilize these technologies and minimize their dangers.

Finally, I would like to commend this meeting for the timeliness of the third item inscribed on your agenda, namely the question of water pollution.

Like the item before it, this too is closely linked with the concerns of the United Nations expressed very forcefully at the Conference on Water held at Mar del Plata two years ago. The problems of water safety are much too clear to be restated here. We are all aware of the degree to which we are rendering increasingly large proportions of the world's water budget unfit for human use.

I can only express my hope that the transboundary water problem, which you are considering during this session, will yield, as did air pollution, to similar agreement on co-operative strategies for joint action. As you know, UNEP has already expressed its willingness to co-operate, for example on the Danube. And I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm this offer as we await the conclusions of this important session.

We have worked very closely with ECE throughout the process of preparation for this meeting. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my deep appreciation and warm congratulations to my dear friend and colleague Janez Stanovnik, and his colleagues, for this masterly effort.

I also wish to reiterate that your deliberations and the results you will achieve in this meeting will have far-reaching effects the world over. It is for your Governments to tell us the degree to which you wish us in UNEP to take part in the implementation of the important decisions of this meeting. We certainly stand ready to carry out, within the limits of our resources, the role you would ask us to undertake.

LIECHTENSTEIN
ЛИХТЕНШТЕЙН

(Mr. A. Gerner, Governmental Councillor of Liechtenstein, Minister of Public Health)

The signing of the Convention of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution within the frame of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the acceptance of an important Resolution concerning this, as well as a statement in the field of environment preservation, are for me an occasion to state in a few words, the importance the Liechtenstein Government attaches to this event.

Liechtenstein is a small country, that has accomplished in a relatively short period of time, the conversion from an essentially agricultural way of life in the Alpine region, to a modern industrial nation. From the very first, the preservation of a beautiful landscape, healthy living conditions for the whole population, and consideration for good living standards, were of special concern. Liechtenstein therefore, promulgated very early on and subsequently extended, the appropriate legislation. Obviously, due to its geographical size, Liechtenstein must take into consideration, even more so than larger countries, working closely in such questions with its neighbours. This especially applies to other inhabitants of the Rhine Valley region, a relationship distinguished by mutual understanding and consideration.

As is well known, there exists between Liechtenstein and Switzerland an important treaty from the year 1923, whereby a customs union was created between both countries, which consequently led to the development of manifold and intensive interrelations, specially in the economic field.

In further European and global spheres, Liechtenstein, constant with its liberal and traditional constitutional State, endeavours where possible, to realize its contribution to the various possibilities of international co-operation.

In conducting this policy, Liechtenstein follows with special vigilance the events in Europe, such as the progress of the European unification efforts and above all, the development of east-west relations within the frame of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Allow me to congratulate the Economic Commission for Europe and its Executive Secretary on its activity in the last years, that has today brought us together. It is an event of important significance, that the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, together with the corresponding Resolution, has been successfully concluded. Momentous interests of different and partly opposing types, have been allowed for in an exemplary manner. In addition to the Convention that Liechtenstein will sign, I would like above all to refer to the Resolution, which is important for our immediate actions in the field of air pollution. Liechtenstein, according to article 8 of Resolution No. 36 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, enjoys an extensive right to contribute to the Commission's efforts. I am specially satisfied, that this possibility of contribution has been manifested in the Convention.

May I express the hope, that the Convention coming into force, and the activity of the executive body foreseen in the Convention and Resolution, achieve genuine progress in overcoming the problem of air pollution.

SPAIN
ESPAGNE
ИСПАНИЯ

(M. J. Sancho Rof, Ministre espagnol des travaux publics et des affaires urbaines)

Je tiens avant tout à exprimer ma satisfaction devant l'occasion qui nous est offerte par cette Conférence d'adhérer, au nom de nos Gouvernements respectifs, à la Convention et à la Résolution sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance, et à la déclaration sur les technologies à faible pollution ou sans déchets, ainsi qu'à cet échange fort intéressant de points de vue sur les politiques et les problèmes découlant de la protection de l'environnement qui nous concernent tous de très près.

J'aimerais que la signature que je vais apposer au nom de mon gouvernement sur la Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance soit interprétée comme l'expression de la volonté de mon pays de continuer à contribuer dans la mesure de ses possibilités à l'effort régional pour la protection de l'environnement, comme un pas en avant important en vue d'encourager les tâches communes futures de coopération en Europe.

Au cours de cette réunion, les Etats membres de la Commission économique pour l'Europe se sont mis d'accord, pour la première fois depuis la signature de l'Acte final d'Helsinki, sur trois textes internationaux dont la portée et l'importance ne sont pas à souligner. La prochaine séance de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe sera tenue, il est déjà connu, dans mon pays en 1980. Les trois documents souscrits ici aujourd'hui pourront donc être examinés à Madrid en tant que développement du principe IX de l'Acte final d'Helsinki et constitueront un élément très positif lors des discussions relatives au deuxième chapitre. Mon gouvernement, conscient de l'importance des travaux préparatoires de cette Conférence, ne peut que se féliciter du résultat de la tâche entreprise par la Commission. Je tiens donc à manifester ici notre reconnaissance à la Commission économique pour l'Europe qui a rendu possible cette réunion au sommet, jouant ainsi un rôle certainement essentiel dans le domaine de la coopération sur notre continent.

Au cours du processus de souci formel de l'Administration espagnole vis-à-vis des problèmes de l'environnement, il est possible de distinguer quatre étapes : l'étape antérieure à 1972; l'étape allant de 1972 au 15 juin 1977; l'étape comprise entre le 15 juillet 1977 et le premier trimestre 1979; enfin, l'étape qui commence maintenant.

Chacune de ces étapes a eu et a toujours un sens. Au cours de la première Décennie des années 60, notre développement s'était marqué pour but essentiel la croissance quantitative, en négligeant quelque peu les problèmes relatifs à l'environnement.

La deuxième étape avait pris naissance autour de la Conférence de Stockholm en tant que point de départ d'une préoccupation formelle vis-à-vis des coûts sociaux du développement, en particulier du problème de la détérioration et de la protection de l'environnement, ce qui entraîna la création d'une série d'unités isolées dans chaque ministère sous la coordination d'une commission interministérielle de l'environnement.

La troisième étape débute avec la nouvelle trajectoire politique commencée le 15 juin 1977 et par la réforme administrative entreprise par le gouvernement issu des élections générales au nouveau Parlement, qui a donné lieu à la création du Sous-Secrétariat à l'aménagement du territoire et de l'environnement et de la direction générale de l'environnement.

La dernière étape, celle que nous vivons maintenant, tire son origine de l'approbation de la Constitution espagnole et de la mise à exécution de ses principes par le gouvernement issu des élections du mois de mars de cette année. En ce qui concerne le thème qui fait l'objet de cette Conférence, ces principes sont résumés dans l'article 45 de notre Constitution, qui dit textuellement :

1. Tous ont le droit de jouir d'un environnement approprié à l'épanouissement de la personne, et tous ont le devoir de le conserver.

2. Les pouvoirs publics veilleront à l'utilisation rationnelle de toutes les ressources naturelles en vue de protéger et d'améliorer la qualité de la vie, ainsi que de défendre et de restaurer l'environnement, en faisant appel à l'indispensable solidarité collective.

3. Toute contravention aux dispositions de l'alinéa précédent donnera lieu, dans les termes fixés par la loi, à des sanctions pénales ou, le cas échéant, administratives, le contrevenant étant dans l'obligation de réparer le dommage causé.

La période 1977/1979 a été une période clef pour l'environnement en Espagne pour des raisons diverses. A côté des répercussions incontestables des changements politiques, nous avons assisté à une nette augmentation de la sensibilité citoyenne vis-à-vis des questions relatives à la défense de l'environnement dans notre pays.

L'Administration espagnole s'est donc engagée réellement dans une nouvelle voie en ce qui concerne l'environnement, ce qui est mis en évidence par ladite réforme administrative de 1977 qui encadre dans un même département ministériel la totalité des actions d'aménagement du territoire, soit la planification et le développement territorial, l'infrastructure, l'urbanisme et l'architecture, le logement et l'environnement. Et, parallèlement, par le calendrier et les activités de la Commission interministérielle de l'environnement, dont le programme ambitieux nous semble en mesure d'assumer la nouvelle demande sociale qui exige de plus en plus un souci réel et profond de la qualité de la vie.

Ce programme peut se résumer comme suit :

1. Elaboration d'un projet de loi générale de l'environnement constituant, avec la législation actuellement en vigueur dans ce domaine ou réformée en fonction des nouvelles exigences, notre ordonnance de l'environnement fondamentale. Mon gouvernement s'est engagé à soumettre ce projet de loi au Parlement dans le courant du mois de décembre prochain.

Conformément aux normes qui ont présidé à l'élaboration de ce projet de loi générale de l'environnement, notre politique dans ce domaine va reposer essentiellement sur le principe de la prévention, en évaluant les effets et les conséquences sur la santé de l'homme de tous projets, programmes ou actions de développement avant de les mettre à exécution, afin de prendre toutes mesures opportunes en vue d'optimiser l'utilisation des ressources naturelles et la correction des éventuelles détériorations qu'elles pourraient subir. Nous prétendons de la sorte atteindre un objectif essentiel, c'est-à-dire l'intégration des considérations relatives à l'environnement dans les processus de décision ayant trait aux programmes de développement.

2. Sur la base de cette loi générale de l'environnement, réviser toute la législation portant sur ce domaine non conforme à ses principes.

3. Etudier la manière d'adapter la structure administrative de l'Etat aux nouveaux objectifs de la politique de l'environnement, afin d'assurer une gestion intégrée et cohérente de cette politique, sur la base certes d'un niveau budgétaire suffisant.

4. Harmoniser dans le domaine de l'environnement l'action de l'Etat et l'action des futures communautés autonomes et des organes locaux, par la création d'un organisme approprié dans lequel seront discutées et décidées les actions conjointes et les propositions de résolution pouvant surgir sur ces questions aux différents niveaux administratifs, le tout sur la base d'une participation sociale maximum.

5. Encourager l'éducation dans le domaine de l'environnement à tous les niveaux, et notamment au niveau de l'éducation générale de base qui correspond aujourd'hui dans mon pays aux enfants âgés de 6 à 14 ans, à l'aide de programmes spécialement conçus et de campagnes visant à obtenir une plus grande prise de conscience de la part de la collectivité vis-à-vis de la valeur et du respect des questions relatives à l'environnement.

6. Promouvoir et encourager la recherche scientifique dans le domaine de l'environnement, à l'aide des conventions nécessaires passées avec les universités et les institutions officielles ou privées.

7. Intensifier la surveillance vis-à-vis des comportements susceptibles d'affecter négativement l'environnement, de façon que les organismes compétents soient en mesure d'assurer le respect des normes légales et la sanction des éventuelles contraventions, avec une intervention très active de la part des autorités locales.

8. Elaborer des programmes d'action préférentielle dans le cas de certaines zones présentant des problèmes de pollution atmosphérique, notamment dans les grandes agglomérations urbaines et les zones à caractère touristique.

9. Etablir des programmes annuels de traitement de résidus solides dans un certain nombre de municipalités sélectionnées.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs et bien d'autres, nous entendons qu'il est essentiel d'intégrer les politiques de l'environnement et les politiques économiques, en insistant une fois de plus sur le fait qu'elles ne sont pas incompatibles mais interdépendantes.

Je pense que nous entendons tous qu'il est indispensable d'établir un nouveau modèle socio-économique visant à une croissance qualitative et tenant compte du fait que les ressources naturelles sont limitées, ainsi que de l'éventuelle dégradation de l'environnement. A cet égard, il semble nécessaire d'améliorer considérablement le recyclage des matières premières et des ressources, notamment de l'eau; il s'impose également de faire appel à des techniques de production fondées sur la récupération et l'économie de l'énergie et des matières premières, conformément au contenu de la déclaration sur les techniques à faible pollution ou sans déchets, avec recyclage ou réutilisation de ces derniers, question qui a fait l'objet d'une attention préférentielle au cours de cette réunion.

Le plan énergétique national récemment approuvé par notre Parlement envisage cette question en profondeur par l'intermédiaire d'un ensemble de résolutions visant à conjuguer le développement nécessaire de sources d'énergie et la défense obligée de l'environnement.

Car je pense que nous sommes tous conscients de la situation économique très difficile que nous traversons et, de ce fait, les questions environnementales ne peuvent être séparées, bien au contraire, du souci énorme que nous nous faisons tous devant la situation énergétique et devant l'éventuelle répercussion de l'utilisation indispensable de sources d'énergie alternatives au pétrole, telles que le charbon et l'énergie nucléaire.

Le plan énergétique national espagnol envisage, devant le manque presque total de ressources pétrolières propres, un programme ambitieux de construction de centrales nucléaires et de centrales thermiques au charbon. C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, nous sommes parfaitement conscients du fait que nous devons faire face au grand défi d'une utilisation rationnelle des différentes sources énergétiques dans le respect de l'environnement, et ce à un moment très difficile pour l'économie mondiale.

Il nous semble donc très important de renforcer la coopération internationale en vue d'harmoniser les politiques de l'environnement et les politiques économiques et de tendre progressivement vers un développement compatible avec la protection de l'environnement et l'amélioration de la qualité de la vie, car nous sommes persuadés que les problèmes découlant de la situation énergétique actuelle et future ont une importance telle pour l'humanité qu'il est désormais interdit de les circonscrire à une zone territoriale donnée et qu'il faut les envisager à l'échelle macro-écologique dans leurs différents aspects et composants. Il s'agit là d'un véritable défi au sens propre du mot et nous tenons à encourager résolument la participation active de la CEPE qui connaît si bien cette question.

Nous estimons qu'un grand nombre des solutions techniques visant à l'amélioration de la qualité de la vie sont dès aujourd'hui applicables dans la plupart des pays qui se soucient du problème de l'environnement, outre qu'elles supposent sur le plan économique des investissements très rentables socialement à long terme. C'est ainsi que nous estimons que l'échange de résultats et d'expériences, notamment à travers la documentation technique élaborée par la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies, constitue un instrument essentiel pour le succès de nos efforts.

Je tiens donc à féliciter ici les techniciens et les experts pour leur travail préparatoire de cette Conférence, tout en les encourageant dans leur tâche future qui va tourner incontestablement au profit de nous tous.

BULGARIA
BULGARIE
БОЛГАРИЯ

(Mr. J. Jivkov, Member of the Council of State and Chairman of the Council on the Protection and Restoration of the Environment of Bulgaria)

I wish to express thanks and to pay tribute to the initiators and organizers of this first Conference of its kind within the European Economic Commission for the protection of the environment. Some four years ago the highly esteemed and staunch champion of peace and international understanding Leonid Brezhnev announced the noble initiative of the Soviet Government. During this period the Executive Secretary Mr. Janez Stanovnik and the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe organized the highly productive activities of the authorized representatives and experts of the Governments concerned and prepared the documents which are the subject of our present agenda.

The convening of this Conference on the Environment is a striking and significant fact of the successful international co-operation in resolving imminent problems regardless of the difference in social systems. It is a good example of an elaboration and practical implementation of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. It is beyond doubt that due to its noble objectives and tangible results this Conference will remain as one of the most positive international events in Europe for 1979. Two documents of particular importance in resolving the most pressing ecological problems are under discussion: a Draft Convention and Resolution on Transboundary Air Pollution and a Draft Declaration on Low-Waste and non-Waste Technologies and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes.

The Delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria supports the Convention and signs it with the conviction that it constitutes a substantial contribution to the development and consolidation of international co-operation in Europe, a solid juridical foundation for a successful solution of the transboundary air pollution problem. The adoption of this Convention and, we believe, its prompt ratification and implementation will be a manifestation of the concern for human health, for the protection of the ecosystems and material values, and for the preservation of the beauty of nature. The drawing up and the implementation of a joint programme on information, assessment and monitoring of air pollution and transboundary flow of pollutants as well as the agreement to set up an executive body within the Economic Commission for Europe to supervise the execution of the Convention has particular significance.

The Declaration on Low-Waste and Non-Waste Technologies and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes is of extreme importance to the successful solution of environmental problems. We highly assess the recommendation to intensify research in this field, to broaden information exchange, to set up an international data bank on low-waste and non-waste technologies. The setting up of an ECE body or working group for the elaboration of issues pertaining to organization, science and technology will have great importance for the introduction of new technologies.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria conducts a consistent and explicitly formulated State ecological policy, its major task being the protection and reproduction of the environment as the fundamental source of earthly wealth for both present and future generations and the creation of a harmony in the inter-relationship society-nature.

We regard the preservation of nature and the environment as an important social problem which affects the destiny of mankind and requires an irrevocable practical solution on a national, regional and world scale.

Socialist society regulates development on the basis of long-term complex planning for the entire economy providing a rational utilization of natural resources and protection of the environment. The acceleration of scientific and technical progress is methodically combined, in the interests of society, with a considerate approach to nature based on concern for the well-being of the nation. Protection of the environment has been established as a constitutional recognizance. A strategic trend in the State ecological policy is the introduction of non-waste, low-waste and other progressive technologies, of closed cycles for water consumption in all branches of the national economy. The Committee for Protection of the Environment as the body carrying out the State environmental policy proposed, and the Government adopted, a two-year programme on the introduction of non-waste technologies which is now being successfully implemented. A long-term ten-year programme in this field is also under consideration.

We are now discussing and shall adopt resolutions on two issues of indisputable importance related to the protection of the environment. However, the range of questions pertaining to the protection of the unique nature of the European continent is a vast and comprehensive one. We believe it particularly important now to regulate and prevent the transboundary flow of water pollutants - of rivers, lakes, seas. In this connexion the propositions outlined by the head of the USSR Delegation is of particular importance. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has worked out a programme for the further treatment of the rivers which flow into the Danube and the Black Sea in order to secure an inflow of pure waters. We have already expressed our readiness to enter into a general agreement on the protection of these important water resources with all Black Sea and Danubian States.

Another issue that awaits its solution is the problem of earth protection, the reduction of the nuisances caused by motor transport, the establishment of permanent ecological standards in the development of human settlements, as well as the problem of the impact of the degrading environment on the health of present and future generations. We hope that after the first important step we are making at the current Conference new fers will follow and further readiness will be voiced for the undertaking of collective measures to protect the nature and the habitat where we live and work and especially in the field of energy and transport.

The protection of environment and the rational exploitation of natural resources is a vital problem for the whole of mankind. The global importance of the problem of the environment signifies in the first place that every national economy feels ever more acutely its dependence on not only its own "natural system" but also on some particularly important aspects of the world's entire ecosphere. Air masses and water currents do not recognize any political or administrative borders. Atmospheric oxygen is almost entirely of a biological origin and now almost two-thirds of the planet's forests are destroyed. Deserts spread out stubbornly and every year 60,000 km² of fertile land are irretrievably destroyed. Fresh waters are scarce and are polluted ever more intensively. The World Ocean is polluted and its productivity reduced. The balance is upset of the ozone layer protecting life on the Earth from the lethal impact of ultra-violet radiation on the biosphere; flora and fauna species, the bearers of invaluable genetic information, are made extinct; the water regime of the planet deteriorates. An unfavourable change in the world climate is quite probable. All these facts about the state of the environment are illustrative of the interdependence among States at a new phenomenon in the development of human civilization. Ecological problems are an integral part of contemporary international relations.

The new contents and the global scope of ecological problems make it imperative for each and every State to give a still more specific and essential contribution to mankind's endeavour to protect Nature - the invaluable wealth of our unique planet. It has become necessary to further expand the international action for solving the ecological problems on the basis of universally acknowledged international legal norms. United Nations and UNEP principles are the main source in this context. The European countries, the United States and Canada proclaimed solemnly in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act that each of the participating States, in accordance with the principles of international law, ought to ensure, in a spirit of co-operation, that activities carried out on its territory do not cause degradation of the environment in another State or in areas lying beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. An important source of international law have proved to be the the concluded international conventions on the protection of the environment, particularly important of which is the 1978 Convention which controls the degradation of environment for military purposes, as well as the one preventing oil pollution of seas, etc.

The effective solution of the ecological problems is most intimately related to the other social problems of our time. The problem of the protection of the environment is inseparable from the question of consolidating peace and peaceful co-existence. Peace is the most important premise for the settlement of the problems of our time which determine the future of mankind. Détente, the imperative disarmament measures, the consolidation of international solidarity and mutual confidence will make it possible to wage an ever vaster multi-faceted co-ordinated action. Peaceful co-existence of all nations, the steady development of the national economies of all countries, the broad exchange of scientific and technological experience will secure effective protection of the environment and its purposeful transformation for the benefit and happiness of mankind.

At the end we propose to authorize the Chairman to transmit the report of this Meeting together with the texts of the statements to the President of the thirty-fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I should like to voice once again the readiness of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to translate into deeds the resolutions of this Meeting for the further development of international co-operation in the protection of the environment.

DENMARK
DANEMARK
ДАНИЯ

(Mr. J. Kampmann, Director-General of the National Agency for Environmental Protection of Denmark)

The Danish Minister of the Environment, Mr. Ivar Nørgaard, is unfortunately unable to attend as he at present is engaged in most urgent matters in the Danish Parliament, but he has personally asked me to convey his best wishes and congratulations to this assembly.

It has particular significance for me personally to take part in this meeting. I had the opportunity, as Minister of the Environment, to head the Danish delegation to the Stockholm Conference in 1972.

The result achieved in 1972 marked the initiation of the difficult task of engaging the whole United Nations system in the cause of restoring and bettering man's environment. Central to this exercise was, of course, the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme and that organization's subsequent activities. The well-being of UNEP, the effectiveness and reach of its activities are of concern to all members of the United Nations. But in carrying out its work and making headway in its formidable task UNEP depends to a large degree on activities going on elsewhere, in and outside the United Nations system. As the United Nations economic commission encompassing a very large part of the world's most industrialized countries the ECE is most important in this regard.

It must therefore without doubt be characterized as a milestone in the development of United Nations environment activities that this high-level meeting is taking place now in Geneva.

As has already been pointed out by the Irish Minister of the Environment, Mr. Barrett, on behalf of the European Economic Community, the significance of this meeting lies also in the contribution it will make to giving effect to certain provisions of the Final Documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Co-operation on environmentally related matters between signatories of the Final Documents does take place at different levels concerning different subjects. The Helsinki Convention regarding the protection of the Baltic Sea is but one example of particular concern to Denmark.

The membership of ECE makes that organization particularly apt for co-operation relating to the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Under the aegis of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems many pertinent environmental issues have been taken up, and in many of those problem areas good progress is under way.

In the situation facing us today, characterized by economic difficulties and uncertainty about the energy situation, it is sometimes argued that we cannot afford to give priority to protection of the environment. Such arguments seem to my Government to be wrong and also dangerous in the longer run. It would be shortsighted to overlook the fact that some of the environmental damage resulting from pollution which we are witnessing today cannot be restored. The threat to the ozone layer caused by the release of fluorocarbons mentioned by several speakers is a case in point.

The economic situation should not make us hesitate in our efforts to maintain and improve environmental conditions.

At this meeting we have adopted the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes. The Declaration is a well thought out text, which should guide and help us in the years ahead to pursue a course that minimizes detrimental, environmental and resource-wasting effects while at the same time moving ahead in the economic and technical spheres. We recommend the setting up of a body of national experts under the authority of the Senior Advisers to be entrusted with the development of organizational, scientific and technical questions related to low- and non-waste technology and re-utilization of wastes. My Government will look forward to progress in these fields.

My Government attaches particular significance to our adoption of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as well as the Resolution regarding measures to set in motion in the immediate future pending the entry into force of the Convention.

As one of the early proponents together with the other Nordic countries of a legally binding international instrument on the subject, my Government finds the results achieved gratifying. Being a product of negotiation and compromise, the Convention, of course, in some parts is less ambitious than we had hoped for. On the other hand, it has become a very realistic instrument, the objectives of which I believe will be fully and effectively carried out. The Convention itself also contains provisions for progressive development and review of its functioning.

The Convention contains valuable stipulations and important commitments undertaken by the Contracting Parties.

I need only mention the commitments to develop policies and strategies which shall serve as a means of combating the discharge of air pollutants, to review policies, scientific activities and technical measures, to hold consultations upon request of affected parties, and to develop best policies and strategies including air quality management systems in particular by using the best available technology.

The Convention should thus provide a good basis for co-operation in the ECE region in combating transboundary air pollution. But I lay stress on the word "basis". For one will of course not find complete guidance in the text with regard to particular problem areas to be given priority and the more precise measures to be taken to obtain specific ends.

However, the Resolution adopted along with the Convention goes some way to meet such concerns. According to the Resolution we have decided to initiate as soon as possible after the High-level Meeting the provisional implementation of the Convention pending its entry into force. We have decided to develop without delay further co-operation in problem areas within the scope of the Convention. And we have committed ourselves to attach highest priority to the completion of a document setting out the strategies and policies of each of the signatories for the abatement of air pollution caused by sulphur compounds. Thus the Resolution in very clear terms gives practical guidance and priorities needed for an immediate initiation of our work.

As far as my Government is concerned Danish co-operation in implementing these commitments may be counted on even starting next week.

I would like briefly to refer to paragraph 2 of the Resolution stating that the necessary authority should be given to ECE and to its Executive Secretary to provide for a sufficient secretariat and for the financial means. This agreement, when given practical effect, will enable the ECE secretariat's environment division to carry out in a dynamic way the new task with which it has been entrusted.

Also this element in the Resolution should be acted upon without delay. We would therefore expect the Commission and the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems to examine the issues related to secretariat resources at the first given opportunity.

It is the view of the Danish Government that there is need for intensified international action-orientated co-operation in the field of environmental protection. Real progress can be achieved only through a combination of strong measures at the national level and enhanced co-operation at the international level with the aim of establishing as effective international standards, rules and regulations as possible. Only in this way shall we be able to fulfil our responsibilities of securing a viable environment for coming generations.

This High-level Meeting and the decisions we have taken bear - I hope - proof of our collective political will to meet this challenge with concrete common action.

1M/5R

AUSTRIA
AUTRICHE
ABCTPIH

(Mr. H. Salcher, Minister of Health and Environment of Austria)

It has been a great pleasure for us to come to Geneva, this civilized city of our neighbouring country, whose traditional role as a venue for international meetings of the past, the present and the future has never been questioned. Let me right now thank the Swiss authorities for their hospitality.

From the very beginning Austria has encouraged initiatives and elaborated some herself, aiming at conducting specialized conferences as a follow-up to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Therefore, we are especially glad to see this High-level Meeting on environmental protection take place. The preparatory work for this High-level Meeting has been difficult, time-consuming and for a long period hampered by controversies on some points. This is why I am particularly satisfied that the member States of the Economic Commission for Europe have succeeded in achieving an agreement on important documents for a joint environmental policy. These documents establish a substantial success in the international endeavours to protect the environment in this region. I would not like to miss the opportunity of thanking the Executive Secretary, Mr. Stenoveik, and his team for their work conducted with expert competency and great zeal.

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which took place in Stockholm in 1972, has been a first highlight in the efforts of the international community to establish principles on national and international environmental policy. The Declaration of Principles agreed upon at this Conference, the recommendations for action and the plan of action did not only represent an initial step of unique importance to protect and improve the global environment, they are constituting principles of enormous importance which guide all of us in our efforts towards settling concrete environmental problems.

Let us, for instance, consider Principles One and Twenty-one of the Stockholm Declaration.

✓ Similar ideas are included in section 5 of Part II of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Thus, for instance, the participating States of OSCE have declared their readiness to co-operate by encouraging the progressive development, codification and application of international law as a means of protecting and improving the human environment. international

On a regional level we have signed the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. With this Convention, we have, in the framework of the ECE, achieved our first internationally binding instrument for the purpose of coping with an urgent problem of regional environmental protection. This instrument adds to the relevant norms of international customary law. Thus the general declarations of the Stockholm Conference have gradually become more substantial.

✓ I hope that this landmark in the development of an international legislation on environmental problems will provide an incentive for the international community to solve other important questions in this field in a spirit of good-neighbourly

IN/PR

co-operation and the unanimously expressed will to protect and improve the environment of our nations. In this context I wish to draw your attention to the question of nuclear installations in border areas, a problem which we consider as especially urgent.

In a time when the supply of natural resources and of energy has become a world-wide problem it is evident that many States deploy considerable intellectual and financial resources to secure the basis of their economic development. The consumption of resources and the negative effects of production - waste materials and waste heat - are becoming an ever-growing burden for our environment. Therefore, environmental policies must raise the demand for a thrifty exploitation of natural resources. Hence economic policies and environmental policies do not necessarily pursue contradicting goals, but even converge, at least in the longer run. Environmental measures cannot be taken in an isolated way. Environmental policies are made by society for society. Therefore, a modern and preventive environmental strategy must seek allies among other interest groups in society so as to enable the establishment of an effective environmental policy. An excellent example for such a policy as well as for successful international co-operation is the present Declaration on Low and Non-waste Technology and Recycling and Re-utilization of Wastes. Here, brilliant experts have succeeded in establishing a future-oriented package of measures which promise to bring about important progress in the development of efficient policies relating to the preservation of the environment and the rational use of raw materials.

In Austria, in the fields of water supply and distribution, environmental protection and regional planning, growing importance is attributed to water pollution. As a follow-up to the successes already obtained, particularly in protecting Austrian lakes, including the border lakes, Lake Constance and Neusiedler See, and in view of the forthcoming improvements with regard to the rivers Danube and Mur, the measures taken by the authorities are further intensified: especially, financial support by the Government is being increased to meet the growing demands in this field. All these attempts also include the struggle against transboundary pollution.

Austria wishes to encourage the protection of water also on an intergovernmental and international level. We wish to make our specific contribution which is expected from us within the framework of this successful international co-operation. We are fully aware of Austria's particular hydrological situation along great international waterways, such as the Danube and the Lake Constance and the Rhine.

The main instruments for our joint endeavours in the struggle against transboundary water pollution have been established by bilateral agreements: the mixed Commissions on transboundary lakes and rivers that meet periodically, discuss concrete problems and elaborate recommendations to the participating Governments. This bilateral form of co-operation with neighbouring States has been highly successful; substantial results have been achieved.

The co-operation within international organizations has given rise to valuable activities aimed at improving water protection including the struggle against transboundary pollution. Austria attributes special importance to the "Declaration on the Human Environment" of Stockholm as well as on the "Plan of Action of the United Nations Water Conference" of Mar del Plata.

14/ST

As far as the Economic Commission for Europe is concerned, I particularly underline the importance of the Declaration on Water Protection of 1966.

We welcome and support the planned adaptation of the Declaration to international developments.

With regard to this Draft Declaration I would like to state our principal aims as follows:

- First: - Appropriate description of the water quality and joint harmonization of the desired quality of transboundary lakes and rivers among the States concerned;
- Second: - Acknowledgement of the interrelationship between the source of pollution and the transboundary effect, which implies the need to accept a necessary restriction of emissions to achieve the required quality in transboundary lakes and rivers;
- Third: - With regard to boundary waters, national elaboration of standards of minimal emission for the polluter in the case of particularly dangerous substances without taking into account the present quality reserves of these waters.

I congratulate the ECE, which is entrusted with enormous tasks to be fulfilled within an all-European co-operation, for the successful efforts undertaken so far. These efforts reinforce my conviction that the ECE will be in a position to cope with the additional tasks which arise as a follow-up to this High-level Meeting. The endeavours of the ECE in the field of environmental protection are promoted by the process of international détente and co-operation just as well as they make their own specific contribution to this very process of détente. Therefore it is our firm conviction that neither in the field of environmental protection nor anywhere else can it be questioned whether one State or another ought to be more interested in such a co-operation and in the progress obtained by it.

Thus, the ECE will also have to fulfil the tasks that we agree upon at this meeting. Future fields of activity will be opened up on other interesting and important topics, such as environmental chemicals and the protection of our natural habitats.

In the last years, Austria has shown that she is extremely interested in substantial international co-operation on a bilateral as well as on a multilateral level. Within her possibilities Austria will continue to undertake everything in order to encourage this co-operation - especially within the ECE - and thus to contribute to the full success of the efforts aimed at protecting and improving the environment in the interest of the people living in this region.

ROMANIA
ROULENIE
РУМЕЛИЯ

(M. V. Iancovici, Président du Conseil national roumain de l'environnement)

La Roumanie participe à cette importante réunion, étant convaincue qu'elle va contribuer à la réalisation d'une coopération efficace entre les pays membres de la Commission économique de l'ONU pour l'Europe dans ce domaine de grande actualité, la protection de l'environnement. Cette Conférence s'inscrit de même dans l'activité plus large d'application des dispositions de l'Acte final d'Helsinki et fait partie de la suite de réunions ayant comme but de promouvoir le processus de coopération multilatérale initiée par la Conférence pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, pouvant apporter une contribution importante à l'amélioration du climat écologique européen, ainsi que du climat politique.

C'est d'ailleurs la raison pour laquelle notre pays a salué l'initiative de la convocation de cette réunion et a constamment milité pour qu'elle ait lieu le plus tôt possible.

A cette occasion, nous voulons exprimer, également, des remerciements au Secrétaire exécutif de la CEE-ONU, M. Jancz Stanovnik, ainsi qu'à ses collaborateurs pour les efforts soutenus qu'ils ont déployés durant la préparation de la Conférence, ainsi que pour le déroulement avec succès de son étape finale.

En Roumanie, les problèmes de la protection de l'environnement et d'amélioration continue de la qualité des facteurs de l'environnement se trouvent dans l'attention permanente de la direction de parti et d'Etat, leur résolution étant incluse dans les plans d'Etat, annuels et quinquennaux, qui se rapportent au développement économique et social du pays.

Les principaux objectifs de l'activité dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement sont principalement déterminés par les demandes prioritaires suivantes : utiliser d'une manière rationnelle les ressources naturelles; maintenir non altéré le cadre biologique naturel; maintenir et améliorer l'état de santé de la population; mettre en valeur les substances résiduelles utilisables; bien gérer les fonds fins destinés à la protection et à l'amélioration de la qualité des facteurs de l'environnement; éduquer la population dans l'esprit de la création d'une conscience écologique avancée; préparer, former et perfectionner les cadres; intensifier la recherche scientifique et le développement technologique; élargir l'activité de coopération scientifique, technique et économique dans ce domaine.

Comme un corollaire des objectifs énumérés ci-dessus, on a en vue d'optimiser les relations existantes entre le développement économique et la protection de l'environnement, afin de réduire au maximum l'impact de la pollution sur la qualité des facteurs de l'environnement.

Les problèmes de la protection de l'environnement en Roumanie ont constitué l'objet de la législation même à partir de l'année 1975 par l'adoption par la grande Assemblée nationale de la loi sur la protection de l'environnement et par la création du Conseil national pour la protection de l'environnement, organe d'Etat dans le cadre du Conseil des ministres. Les années suivantes, le cadre juridique concernant la protection de l'environnement a connu en Roumanie une extension extrêmement

importante par l'adoption par la grande Assemblée nationale de nouvelles lois concernant : la gestion des eaux (1974), le programme national de perspective pour l'aménagement des bassins hydrographiques de la Roumanie (1976), le programme national pour la conservation et le développement du fonds forestier durant les années 1976-2010 (1976), l'économie du gibier et de la chasse, par des mesures concernant la mise en valeur rationnelle et la protection du gibier, en protégeant les espèces rares, spécifiques au territoire national (1976), la collecte, la livraison, la gestion et la mise en valeur des déchets et des autres ressources secondaires de matières premières et matériels (1975), la systématisation du territoire et des localités urbaines et rurales sur la protection de l'habitat (1974). Tous ces actes législatifs ont une contingence avec les problèmes de la protection de l'environnement, se rapportant à l'amélioration continue de l'état qualitatif des facteurs de l'environnement.

Les directives concernant le développement économique et social de la Roumanie, dans la période d'après 1980, prennent en considération la réalisation de technologies de production non polluantes et de systèmes avancés de protection de l'air, des eaux et du sol. La base technique matérielle pour la protection de l'environnement va se développer dans un rythme accéléré, en accordant une attention particulière à la bonne gestion des fonds fixes pour l'épuration des gaz résiduels, l'épuration des eaux usées et la mise en valeur des déchets, en assurant l'exploitation des installations existantes aux paramètres projetés. On va élargir les espaces verts dans les zones urbaines et on va créer des parcs nouveaux et des réserves naturelles, des lieux d'agrément et des zones récréatives.

On va développer le système de surveillance de la qualité de l'environnement, qui permettra de poursuivre d'une manière systématique, collecter, centraliser et traiter les données se rapportant à la qualité de l'air, des eaux, du sol, de la faune et de la flore, en vue de connaître l'évolution et les tendances de l'état de l'environnement, dans les zones des grandes plates-formes industrielles et sur l'ensemble du territoire du pays. En même temps, les actions concernant l'éducation de la population, surtout de la jeunesse, pour la protection et l'amélioration de la qualité de l'environnement, y compris la protection de la nature connaîtront une nouvelle impulsion.

Consciente de la nécessité de préserver un environnement sain, la Roumanie a participé avec intérêt à la préparation de cette réunion, étant convaincue du rôle et de l'importance du développement de la coopération multilatérale des pays du continent.

Dans la conception de notre pays, la complexité des problèmes que pose à présent la protection de l'environnement rend la coopération internationale une nécessité qui ne peut pas être ignorée, étant donné que la pollution est un phénomène qui ne connaît pas de frontières et fait abstraction de systèmes sociaux politiques différents.

La protection de l'environnement constitue un élément important de la politique du parti et de notre Etat, du développement économique et social du pays.

Le caractère planifié du développement économique-social de notre pays nous permet d'éliminer toute contradiction qui pourrait intervenir entre la politique de préservation de l'environnement et celle de développement.

En nous prononçant en faveur de l'intensification des actions de coopération, nous estimons que, comme pour les stratégies de développement économique-social, le facteur déterminant afin de promouvoir une politique saine dans le domaine de l'environnement est constitué par l'effort propre, national, de chaque pays. En assurant un climat écologique sain dans nos pays, on va contribuer dans la plus grande mesure à la réalisation et au maintien d'un environnement sain sur notre continent.

Saluant les pas faits dans la direction de l'instauration d'une large coopération internationale dans ce domaine, ainsi que les mesures qui seront entreprises conformément aux documents adoptés par la Conférence, la délégation roumaine souligne la nécessité que les actions respectives n'affectent pas le processus de développement économique-social des pays participants, surtout de ceux engagés sur la voie de la création et du développement d'une économie nationale moderne sur la base de nouveaux résultats de la science et de la technique contemporaine. Nous croyons que les actions de coopération doivent faciliter l'accès de ces pays aux technologies modernes, dont l'utilisation sera au bénéfice de tous.

Nous sommes témoins, d'un côté, d'une immense explosion de la connaissance scientifique au cours vertigineux de la révolution technico-scientifique, qui met à la portée de l'homme de nouveaux moyens pour l'amélioration de la nature, de l'environnement, pendant que simultanément on enregistre une aggravation de l'état des facteurs de l'environnement comme résultat de l'activité de l'homme.

En examinant la situation de l'environnement de la région de la CEE et en constatant la préoccupation toute particulière que les Etats manifestent devant cette question, la délégation roumaine ne pourrait pas omettre de porter à l'attention de ce forum le grand danger que présentent pour le climat écologique européen l'immense accumulation d'armements classiques et nucléaires qui existe à présent, la course incessante qui est enregistrée dans la direction de la production de nouveaux types d'armes dont les effets destructifs et nuisibles ne peuvent finalement qu'augmenter davantage les risques qui planent sur notre continent, sur les merveilleuses réalisations de nos peuples.

Profondément soucieuse de cette situation, ainsi que de sa tendance de perpétuation, la Roumanie saisit cette occasion pour mettre en évidence la nécessité impérieuse de cesser immédiatement le gaspillage des matières, du potentiel scientifique, technique et humain pour des buts militaires, de passer à la destruction des stocks d'armements existants et à l'utilisation des biens et des fonds ainsi réalisés dans des buts réellement humains, pour le bien-être de chaque peuple.

Dans les conditions des interdépendances qui caractérisent le développement contemporain, l'amplification de la coopération entre les Etats, basée sur le respect rigoureux des principes de l'indépendance et de la souveraineté nationale, de l'avantage réciproque, de l'égalité en droits et de la non-ingérence dans les affaires intérieures, constitue la seule alternative qui correspond à l'intérêt de tous les Etats et les peuples.

Ayant toujours en vue ces impératifs du droit international, nous exprimons l'espoir qu'en mettant dans la pratique les dispositions des documents adoptés à cette conférence, on va faire un pas en avant dans la direction du renforcement de la coopération européenne et de l'amélioration du climat de notre continent.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais souligner que la délégation roumaine interprète la disposition de l'article 14 de la Convention, concernant la participation des organisations régionales d'intégration économique constituées par des Etats membres de la CEE comme se référant à une telle organisation à laquelle ses Etats membres ont transféré leur compétence de signer, conclure et appliquer en leur nom des accords internationaux et d'exercer leurs droits et responsabilités dans le domaine de la pollution transfrontière.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
СОЕДИНЕННЫЕ ШТАТЫ АМЕРИКИ

(Mr. D. Costle, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America)

This is an historic gathering. We are preparing to take a major step toward meeting an environmental challenge of global dimension - improving the quality of the air we breathe.

Many have contributed to making this achievement possible. The Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems - first under the capable direction of Mr. Lykke, and subsequently under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Ozenes - have worked long and hard. They deserve great praise. The co-operation of the ECE and UNEP has also been of critical importance. Dr. Stanovnik, Dr. Bishop and the members of the Environment Division, in particular, have provided valuable support and direction.

The action we are taking this week marks an important milestone in the implementation of the document signed in Helsinki four years ago. It reflects the wisdom of the nations who were signatories to that document in identifying the environment, among other concerns, as an appropriate focus for multilateral co-operation. It also reflects their foresight in proposing that the ECE be the forum for co-operative efforts carried out under the terms of the Helsinki Final Act.

However, the action we are taking this week marks something else as well - a growing recognition among all our nations of the need to reverse the damage being done to the natural systems of this planet.

The problem of the common property that is gradually depleted is a familiar one in history. Before the industrial revolution, this tragedy of the commons typically involved land. Grazing land set aside for the use of all would be over-used because no single villager had the incentive to limit the size of his herd to preserve the resource for the use of all. Thus the grasses would be consumed or killed, the land would erode - and a resource that had been of tremendous value to many villagers would be useless to all.

With the coming of industrial technology, we have had to extend the concept of the commons. Resources like air and water - once so plentiful that they were simply taken for granted - began to deteriorate under the pressures of technological advance and population growth. In recent years, we have been obliged to extend the concept of the commons still further: we have begun to see the entire planet as a single environmental commons, one that is seriously threatened by the actions of individual nations.

Yet, the basic reality that underlay the destruction of the village pasture still applies: no one nation or individual can be blamed for the problem nor can one nation or individual solve the problem alone. Too, we must remember that unlike the villager before the industrial revolution who could move on to new pasture land, we, dependent on the global commons for our life support, have nowhere left to go. If we are to prevent the tragedy of the commons from being repeated on a global scale, we must act now - together.

A decade ago, the international contours of the pollution problem were just beginning to come into focus. Since then, the continued build-up of environmental contaminants - combined with advances in our scientific knowledge - have cast the nature of the threats to our global commons in much sharper relief. Thus, for example:

- A scientific consensus is now emerging that a doubling of fossil-fuel combustion will increase carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere enough to raise global temperatures by 2 to 3 degrees centigrade. We also know that a doubling in fossil-fuel use is likely sometime fairly early in the next century. What we do not know is how a 2 to 3 degree change would affect patterns of rainfall, wind and seasonal temperature in particular parts of the globe.
- A study by the United States' National Academy of Sciences - released just last week - suggests that the potential for damage to the stratospheric ozone layer by chloroflourocarbon emissions may be much greater than previously suspected. The study found that if emissions continue at the current rate, ozone levels could be reduced more than 16 per cent by the middle of the next century - which in turn could increase the worldwide incidence of skin cancer as much as 65 per cent. If emissions rise by 7 per cent between now and the year 2000, more than half the ozone in the stratosphere could eventually be eliminated.
- And finally, of course, we are beginning to understand the dimensions of the harm being done to our lakes, plant life, soils and structures by acid rain - an understanding that has led the ECE to make the long-range transport of air pollutions and acid rain its first order of environmental business.

Such environmental concerns - taken together with many others that I might have cited - confront us with a challenge that is without historical precedent. We must, somehow, find the means to carry international co-operation to a new plane. We must learn to act quickly and forcefully on matters where action by a single country - or even a handful of countries - will not be sufficient to protect our global commons.

In searching for this new form of internationalism, we can usefully start by considering the nature of the Convention we are signing this week. It recognizes that solutions to problems such as acid rain - if they are to be workable - must combine multilateral actions with measures taken by individual nations.

The United States and Canada have already begun to demonstrate what can be achieved through co-operative efforts. A joint research group, established last year, has issued a report outlining the scope of the transport of air pollutants between the two countries. Now we are working toward a bilateral agreement on the control of transboundary pollution.

But the United States has also taken a number of steps on its own to understand, and to limit, the long-range transport of pollutants.

We have three major research projects underway on long-range transport: one to assess the impact of local plans for reducing photochemical oxidants on the regional movement of such pollutants; a second to develop methods for predicting, and preventing, the pollution episodes that frequently affect large portions of the nation; and a third, on the potential impact of new power-plant development on atmospheric visibility in the western part of the country.

In addition, we have begun a 10-year research project on acid rain, with \$10 million to be spent during the first year. It will cover such concerns as the impact of acid rain on lakes, crops, masonry, as well as its chemistry and transport in the atmosphere. This project will build on the excellent research work already done by many other ECE member nations.

And finally, we have set strict standards for new, coal-fired electric generating plants. These will require the use of scrubbers on such plants to control sulphur-dioxide and particulate emissions.

The United States believes these actions are consistent with the principles of the Convention; and we look forward to working with the other signers of the Convention in achieving its goals. For the Convention appears to us an eminently practical approach to environmental problem-solving on an international scale. We strongly support the Convention and the accompanying resolution.

We believe also that environmental objectives will be advanced by the Declaration on Low and Non-waste Technology and Re-Utilization and Recycling of Wastes.

A decade ago, the idea that a group of nations - with clear differences of interest and ideology - could unite to protect the environment would have seemed doubtful at best. Indeed, many would have said it was impossible. Yet we have made a significant start. And that should be a source of pride for us all.

Even so, the question remains, are we acting rapidly enough? We humans share a common myopia, a common defect of vision. We look back on the four million years of our existence, and we conclude that - in spite of disaster, in spite of thoughtless or deliberate folly - life will go on. The long history of our species comforts us; it weakens any sense of the need for urgent action on what appears to be distant threats.

But the threats are not so distant - for, in comparison with the life of our globe, the history of man is little more than an incident. If we compress the four-billion-year existence of the earth into the six working days of the week, with creation beginning Monday morning, we find that the humblest form of life - a microbe - did not appear until Tuesday at noon. From Wednesday through Friday, primitive forms of life experimented, competed, found their niche, or vanished. At 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, the large reptiles appeared, and at 9.00 p.m., our oldest trees. On this one-week scale, man - four million years old - emerged at three minutes to twelve. The Industrial Revolution started at one-fortieth of a second before midnight.

Thus our modern history of environmental depletion - compounded by technological development, massive resource-consumption, and unprecedented population growth - is quite recent, quite new; in our global week, it amounts

to no more than the blink of an eye. It is insanity for us to assume that our modern patterns of environmental depletion can continue indefinitely.

We must recognize that the earth does not march to a human clock: the ozone now disappearing from the stratosphere will not be replaced for a century or more; the lakes whose life has been destroyed by acid rain could remain in that condition for decades, even if we eliminate immediately all the emissions that produce it.

We have begun to arrest the damage of past years, and to prevent the future deterioration of our finite global commons. But we must broaden the scope and hasten the tempo of our co-operation - for human activities are shrinking the size of our global commons at a geometric, not an arithmetic, pace.

The human kind stands at twelve o'clock. What lies beyond, we are not sure. The future of our species depends on the ability of our social and political institutions to change human behaviour as rapidly as we have been changing this small pasture that sustains our common life. Our actions will determine whether man is sinking into a long and bitter night or whether we are assuring for our children a new dawn.

SWEDEN
SUEDE
ШВЕЦИЯ

(Mr. A. Dahlgren, Minister of Agriculture of Sweden)

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe laid down that the protection and improvement of the human environment and a rational utilization of natural resources are of major importance to the well-being of peoples and the economic development of countries. Many environmental problems, particularly in Europe, can be solved effectively only through close international co-operation. Participating States declared their firm intention to develop co-operation in the environmental field. They would work for the inclusion in the programme of work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe the areas of co-operation, agreed upon by CSCE.

The ECE was thus entrusted with an important role in the implementation of the environment programme. By building up dynamic co-operation the ECE can make an active contribution to the gradual realization of the environmental goals set up at the Helsinki Conference.

Environment co-operation within the ECE has been revitalized since the Helsinki Conference, based on guidelines given in the Chapter on the environment in the Final Act. A programme is being built up for the monitoring and evaluation of long-range transboundary air pollution. Co-operation has been initiated for the development of methods of industrial and other economic activities and of technological development.

The initiative to convene this high-level meeting was taken after the Helsinki Conference by the Soviet Head of State, Leonid Brezhnev, in a proposal that three all-European congresses be convened, one of which should deal with environment protection. The preparations for the meeting have not only led to important decisions but also laid a firm basis for an extended environmental co-operation within the ECE.

Let us make the meeting into a starting point for a dynamic phase of concrete co-operation for the protection and improvement of the environment in Europe.

The Helsinki Final Act particularly stressed the problem of long-range transport of air pollutants, primarily of sulphur. Co-operation was to include the desulphurization of fossil fuels and exhaust gases.

The problems caused by acidification are a self-evident priority. President Carter, in his Annual Message on the environment to the Congress, said quite rightly that acid rains and the devastation of the tropical rain forests are the two most serious global problems. Precipitation acidified by sulphur dioxide has especially created problems in the highly industrialized ECE region, problems which cannot be solved without international co-operation. The airborne sulphur pollutants cause health hazards. They cause enormous material losses, in forms such as billions of dollars' worth of corrosion damage. Civilization's treasures of buildings and monuments are threatened by destruction.

But the greatest danger of airborne sulphur pollutants is the damage they cause to the environment. Lakes become acidified. The ground water is also affected. Heavy metals are leaking out of acidified soils. The mercury content in fish increases. Fish life is being extinguished in heavily acidified lakes. Scientists give warning of a decrease in the regrowth of forests and diminishing returns in agriculture. All this results in enormous economic losses.

But that is not all. The social effects of this extensive deterioration of the environment are very serious in our highly industrialized societies. The opportunity to enjoy a clean and unspoiled countryside is an invaluable asset in the life of people living in heavily polluted towns and industrial areas. It is important to their quality of life. People will be deeply concerned if the countryside around them is spoiled and poisoned.

In Sweden the acidified precipitation kills biological life in thousands of lakes. Already today fish stocks in 20,000 of our lakes are adversely affected. If no action is taken to stop emissions of sulphur many more lakes will be seriously affected. The airborne sulphur compounds accordingly constitute a tremendous menace to our environment.

The Swedish Government has taken drastic measures to reduce sulphur emissions by 1985 to half the level of that of 1976. The sulphur content in fuel oil is now limited to a maximum of 1 per cent in the predominant part of the fuel oil used in Sweden. But an increasingly great proportion of the sulphur which is acidifying our water areas crosses our borders in the form of long-range transport of air pollutants. The proportion today is as high as between 70 and 80 per cent. The problems caused by transboundary air pollution can only be solved by international co-operation. In this light Sweden welcomes the ECE Convention on Transboundary Air Pollution. The readiness of the ECE States to assume binding obligations to combat transboundary air pollution is encouraging and highly gratifying. It strengthens confidence in the co-operation between the nations of Europe. It has awakened hopes in my country that measures will be taken to eliminate the acute threat that acid precipitation levels at our environment.

It is indeed satisfactory that the States of the ECE region acknowledge the serious problems that transboundary air pollution can create and that they undertake to work out effective strategies and policies in order to combat emissions of air pollutants. We welcome that measures are to be taken to restrict and, as far as possible, reduce and prevent air pollution by using the best available technology. We also find it important that when activities are being planned, which threaten the environment of other countries, consultations shall take place between polluting and polluted countries.

The adoption of the Convention is, however, only the first step of the co-operation which is to lead to the measures which are necessary. The entry into force of the Convention is subject to ratification. I find it gratifying that the parliamentarians from the States of Europe at a recent meeting here in Geneva within the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Union have urged States to ratify the Convention with all speed. Interim implementation will, however, be initiated immediately. According to the Resolution attached to the Convention highest priority will be given to the negotiating of a common document which sets out the strategies and policies which every State must now prepare for combating air pollution caused by sulphur compounds. These measures must in the near future lead to considerable reductions in sulphur releases.

The Convention also provides that a concurrent research co-operation be built up for developing technological know-how for reducing emissions, for evaluating the environmental effects of transboundary air pollution, and for monitoring the atmospheric processes by which air pollutants are transported across national boundaries. In this way an extensive and goal-oriented ECE programme for combating transboundary air pollution will emerge under the control of the Executive Body for the Convention. In the longer term, work under the Convention should be extended to include other types of air pollution, such as various metallic and organic pollutants.

The States of the ECE region comprise the greater part of the highly industrialized world. The technological and economic development in our countries have made possible a considerable improvement in the material conditions under which people live and in their material wellbeing. But it has also its drawbacks and these have become increasingly evident. The rise in material standards has been achieved partly at the price of mismanaging natural resources and consequently also at the expense of important environmental values. If we allow development to continue along these lines the consequences can be serious. The most disturbing features are the scarcity and the uneven distribution of natural resources, the limited ability of the earth to tolerate pollution and the deleterious effects on health of toxic substances in the environment. The situation of the developing countries emphasizes the need for the conscientious husbanding of resources in all countries.

This is the background to the other important decision to be taken at this High-level Meeting: The adoption of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Re-cycling of Wastes.

The highly industrialized States in the ECE region now declare their intention, at the national and international level, to promote the development of low- and non-waste technology. In this way energy and raw materials can be utilized rationally at the same time as the human environment is protected. The Declaration lays the foundation for a goal-oriented ECE programme for the conservation of natural resources by changing production patterns, including the recycling of wastes and the recovery of energy from waste. The working group which is now to be set up under the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems for the attainment of the goals set out in the Declaration has an important task. This task must be seen in a global context as part of the efforts being made under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote the emergence of alternative, less wasteful patterns of development.

Preparations for the High-level Meeting have also comprised a number of other important environmental areas. But the time has not yet come to take important decisions in the form of conventions and fundamental political declarations of intent. However, goals and guidelines have begun to emerge in some vital areas. This has laid the foundation for extended co-operation programmes in the ECE and for future important decisions: declarations, principles and conventions. When such decisions are prepared the time will be ripe for new High-level Meetings within the framework of the ECE on the Protection of the Environment.

Proposals have been put forward during the preparatory work concerning the basic principles for a programme on the protection of the flora and fauna in the ECE region. Many of the region's States have commented favourably on these and they are a good basis for measures within the ECE for the preservation of natural

ecological systems and existing genetic resources, particularly rare animal and plant species and their habitats. One of the goals for an ECE programme in this important field should be an agreement between the States of the region on the establishment of a complete system of biotopes.

Water pollution control and fresh water utilization is another important area in the CSCE Final Act which has been under discussion during preparations. Emphasis has been laid on transboundary water pollution. The ECE Committee on Water Problems is now working out a Declaration of Policy on Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, including Transboundary Pollution, which deals with these questions. We hope that the principles and guidelines presented in this declaration will be sufficiently strong to guarantee the adequate protection of fresh water resources in the region.

The monitoring of changes in the environment due to both natural factors and human activities is a vital task for international environment co-operation. A proposal has been put forward during the preparations for the High-level Meeting concerning the establishment of an ECE system for environmental monitoring. The ECE's Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems should study the possibilities of building up an ECE system for monitoring important environmental factors. A system of this kind would be a natural and integrated part of the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) established under the aegis of UNEP.

The great increase in the use of toxic substances involves serious environmental hazards. This has become a very real problem in the industrialized countries of the ECE region, and large investments have been made to solve it. Extensive international co-operation is now emerging in this area. Future ECE co-operation on this important environmental issue has been dealt with during the preparations for this High-level Meeting. The formulation of a long-term programme of co-operation to solve common problems arising from toxic substances is an urgent future task for the ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems.

The ECE is faced with important tasks in the field of environment. Dynamic co-operation is emerging. One precondition is that member States demonstrate an open attitude and a will to make an active contribution to the establishment of such a programme. Preparations for this High-level Meeting have revealed gratifying signs of such an open attitude and political will.

But it is also necessary for the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe to receive sufficient resources for the effective implementation of the decisions taken at the High-level Meeting. Without such resources there is a risk that these decisions, as well as the tasks in the environment field entrusted to the ECE by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, will get no further than the paper they are written on. It is essential, therefore, that the States of the region, both in their capacity as members of the ECE and as participating States at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, use all possible means to ensure that the Environment secretariat of the ECE receives substantially increased resources; and these should consist not only in additional personnel but also in financial resources for the procurement of consultancy services.

The outcome of this High-level Meeting is a significant advance in environment co-operation within the ECE. It is also a significant advance in co-operation between east and west. Irrespective of their social and economic systems, States have made a decisive effort to solve joint problems through concerted efforts. And this is the very essence of détente. Therefore, we look forward with satisfaction and pleasure to the account of the results of this meeting which will be given at the follow-up of the CSCE in Madrid next year.

YUGOSLAVIA
YUGOSLAVIE
ЈУГОСЛАВИЈА

(Mr. Z. Dragan, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia)

I share the opinion that the Conference represents a significant success in the development of inter-European relations. In this way we also confirm our determination to continue the co-operation based on the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and the results achieved by the Economic Commission for Europe in the course of the 32 years of its activity.

It is with particular satisfaction that I stress the important role of the Economic Commission for Europe, its Executive Secretary and our compatriot, Mr. Janez Stanovnik, as well as the body of Senior Government Advisers in the preparation of this Conference.

The Convention we have adopted represents a big success in the implementation of the CSCE. The coming to an agreement in other domains of economic relations should follow this example. That is the way to further the development of multilateral co-operation which presupposes the overcoming of the bloc division and the promotion of an equitable and varied co-operation among sovereign and independent countries of Europe. Such an occasion should be the forthcoming meeting in Madrid, that should constitute a step forward towards the realization of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in all fields.

As a result of two years' activity, the member States of the ECE have reached an undivided agreement concerning the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology. In this way we attempt to solve certain environmental problems.

Therefore, we feel it is justified to state the following:

- that conditions have been created for a higher level of co-operation in which all countries assume responsibility, either jointly or individually; and
- that we have strengthened the mechanisms of our co-operation within the framework of the United Nations Regional Commission for Europe.

We attach special importance to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, as its binding character has put to test the readiness of all countries to accept the interdependence of their development as an indispensable form of co-operation in the European region.

Both the Convention and the Declaration will, undoubtedly, result in more intensified engagement of the countries concerned with a view to undertaking more active measures aimed at protecting the air and promoting technology on a local scale. This will positively affect environmental protection in general in each of the countries involved.

We sign the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution with great pleasure and shall make an effort to further co-operation in this domain. At the same time, we express our full support for the implementation of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology.

These documents will substantially contribute to the solution of the two specific areas of problems. However, a series of issues which require the continuity of our mutual co-operation still remains. That has already been indicated in the CSCE Final Act and during the preparations for the Conference.

The contribution of the States members of the ECE to international economic development has been significant. The disquieting situation of the environment, however, demonstrates the negative aspects of accelerated, biased growth in the region as well as that motivated by private interests.

Consequently, our countries are today faced with complex environmental problems. We are aware that the developed countries transmit their development patterns and technological achievements to countries beyond our region, primarily to the developing countries. This development pattern and achievements are currently re-examined, ranging from excessive concentration of productive forces, urban expansion, the growth of traffic, depletion of natural resources and polluting technological processes to an increasingly imbalanced territorial development.

We must at this point admit that we are put to the test. Shall we be able to ensure development that will not inevitably lead to environmental degradation by using our mental, material, financial and organizational capacities? Man is entitled to live in an environment worthy of his dignity, but it is also his duty to take care of it and meet the requirements of the present and future generations. This, among other things, implies that we must safeguard and preserve our natural resources.

In this context, the Yugoslav delegation attaches special significance to the problems of European water resources. It is good that this problem has been put on the agenda of the Conference. However, the manner in which this has been done is incompatible with the gravity of the problems.

We are witnessing an ever-increasing threat to water quality caused by urban and industrial expansion, by the growing river and canal traffic networks, the propagation of radioactive waste and thermal pollution. Should the polluting of European waterways continue at the present pace, we shall be faced with the danger of having watercourses, which represent an essential prerequisite to the global development of Europe, become, in fact, a limiting factor to such development.

We are now aware of the consequences of exhausting energy resources. Must we also be faced with a similar situation with water resources?

It is evident that this question is not of equal importance to all the countries, located upstream or downstream. This unequal situation should by no means hinder the solution of this issue among the States aware of their responsibility.

In the preparations for the Conference, the subject of the preservation and regulation of nature, its flora and fauna was also considered. The Yugoslav delegation is convinced that the exceptional resources of nature as well as the man-made goods of Europe constitute together the heritage of all European nations. It is, therefore, only proper that these should be given adequate consideration within the economic development of Europe. Our relation towards nature cannot be reduced to protection only. We are dealing, in fact, with a vital precondition for development in general, particularly with respect to underdeveloped regions, tourism, cultural continuity, conservation of ecosystems and the like.

We all know how many difficulties have been overcome and how much mutual understanding was required to reach consensus on the proposed documents. Responsibility shall make us proceed to their implementation without delay.

We are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that environmental problems must be tackled with regard to their cause and that means through development rather than by redressing the consequences, i.e. through protection.

We are convinced that in order to solve the problems of human environment it is basically necessary to overcome the exploitive attitude towards environmental goods. This implies a qualitative transformation of the development pattern.

If we accept that the environment is the fundamental condition for economic growth, and the framework of human existence, then the proportions of this transformation become apparent.

We must restore the integrity of development and the authentic needs of man as a natural and cultural entity.

We have paved an important and rewarding road for our co-operation, perhaps of wider implications than it might seem today. Let us pledge for the continuity of these collective efforts.

If we also agree with respect to this issue, the Yugoslav delegation shall propose that an adequate body or bodies of the ECE proceed towards the preparation for a high-level consideration of the problems of European waters. We feel that with such activities we are carrying out our duty in these fields not only in preserving the actual environment but also in leaving a better one to future generations.

I believe this is the essential target of this Conference.

ITALY
ITALIE
ИТАЛИЯ

(M. V. Scalia, Ministre pour la recherche scientifique et technologique,
Délégué pour les problèmes de l'environnement de l'Italie)

Tout d'abord j'aimerais me féliciter avec vous de votre élection à cette haute charge. Votre élection représente la reconnaissance du rôle important joué par la délégation suédoise pendant les travaux préparatoires de la réunion à haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement.

J'aimerais en même temps me féliciter aussi avec M. le Vice-Président, et remercier le Secrétaire exécutif, M. Stanovnik, pour le soin avec lequel il a organisé cette importante réunion à niveau ministériel des pays membres de la Commission économique pour l'Europe.

J'aimerais ajouter encore quelques mots à ce qui a été déjà dit, au nom des Communautés européennes, par M. le Ministre Barrett, Chef de la délégation irlandaise.

Le Gouvernement italien se réjouit de cette Réunion à haut niveau sur les problèmes les plus urgents de l'environnement, qui a été organisée dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies.

Le choix des pays de la CEE est un choix de développement économique et social commun. Nous ne pouvons toutefois pas oublier que dans le passé on a trop souvent négligé les problèmes de la coopération dans le domaine technologique, qui doit viser non seulement à augmenter la production et les services, mais aussi à obtenir un développement qui sauvegarde et améliore en même temps l'environnement.

C'est grâce à la Conférence de Stockholm et à la création du Programme pour l'environnement de l'UNEP que les Nations Unies ont en premier attiré l'attention des gouvernements et de la société tout entière sur la nécessité urgente de lier le développement économique à l'amélioration de l'environnement et de la qualité de la vie.

Ce n'est donc pas un hasard si un problème tel que celui de la pollution transfrontière trouve sa solution dans un instrument international promu par la CEE. Cette Commission, de laquelle font partie presque tous les pays développés des Nations Unies, a entre autres la tâche d'indiquer aux pays des autres régions de l'ONU, par des initiatives concrètes, ce qui peut être fait en faveur de l'environnement.

La pollution atmosphérique transfrontière est un exemple typique des effets négatifs des activités industrielles d'un pays, effets qui, à cause de la circulation atmosphérique globale, finissent par se répercuter sur l'environnement de localités qui peuvent même se trouver à des milliers de kilomètres de distance. C'est là un cas évident dans lequel seule la collaboration internationale peut réellement fournir une solution équitable au problème de la pollution. Personne n'est à l'abri de la pollution transfrontière et même les barrières représentées par les montagnes, comme par exemple celles qui séparent géographiquement l'Italie du centre de l'Europe, ne sont plus suffisantes. Des stations de relevé des données de notre réseau de contrôle ont montré que des effets de pollution à longue distance avaient dépassé la barrière des Alpes.

Il est également bien connu que les essais nucléaires dans l'atmosphère ont malheureusement eu comme conséquence la diffusion d'agents polluants à très longue distance même entre les hémisphères terrestres.

Personne n'est protégé, tout le monde est touché, tout le monde est intéressé à ce que des mesures soient prises.

Ceci est - à mon sens - l'esprit véritable de la convention que nous approuvons ici à Genève.

Il y a une deuxième considération qui concerne l'application concrète de la convention.

En Italie, une loi sur la pollution atmosphérique est en vigueur depuis 1966. Une première comparaison faite par les services compétents de mon pays entre la convention que nous approuvons ici à Genève et la loi italienne permet d'affirmer que l'Italie est déjà à même d'appliquer les normes de la convention.

Au nom du Gouvernement italien je prends en tout cas l'engagement de modifier les normes italiennes pour les rendre conformes à la convention, si un examen plus approfondi et comparé de la convention et de notre législation devait montrer que certains aspects de nos normes peuvent être améliorés. Cet examen serait fait dans un délai très bref et permettra de fournir au Comité exécutif, prévu par la convention, toutes les informations demandées par les dispositions spécifiques de la convention même.

Il faut naturellement rappeler en ce qui nous concerne qu'une partie des activités prévues par la convention sera menée en collaboration avec les Communautés économiques européennes qui ont une compétence établie dans le domaine de l'environnement. Cela s'intègre dans le cadre des activités menées par les pays qui en font partie. L'Italie de toute façon, tout en respectant les dispositions prévues par les accords d'intégration des Communautés européennes veillera à ce que la convention soit appliquée dans son ensemble.

Je désire notamment souligner l'intérêt que mon pays a pour le deuxième sujet à l'ordre du jour de cette réunion, c'est-à-dire l'utilisation de technologies peu polluantes ou sans déchets et le recyclage des déchets. Depuis longtemps l'Italie déploie beaucoup d'efforts dans ce sens et certains résultats intéressants ont déjà été obtenus. Nous croyons que la coopération dans le cadre de la CEE pourrait donner lieu à des résultats très utiles pour la solution d'un des principaux problèmes des économies actuelles, c'est-à-dire l'épargne des matières premières et la réutilisation de tout ce qui peut encore être employé, en évitant les gaspillages et en sauvegardant l'environnement.

La coopération sur les problèmes de l'environnement dans le cadre des activités de la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies, grâce surtout à l'œuvre du Groupe des Conseillers pour l'environnement, est un exemple important de rencontre entre des pays à systèmes économiques et sociaux différents, qui collaborent sur des problèmes concrets ayant un grand intérêt pour leurs peuples respectifs.

Les résultats de cette collaboration nous amènent encore une fois à souligner que là où des problèmes réels existent, la collaboration est toujours possible; là où l'intérêt effectif des peuples s'impose, il y a moyen de s'entendre.

Cette fonction de forum de comparaison et de rencontre assurée par la CEE doit être conservée, renforcée et étendue pour résoudre d'autres problèmes réels; ceci est certainement - d'après moi - l'esprit de l'Acte final d'Helsinki et dans ce sens cette réunion à haut niveau de Genève est un bon commencement en vue de la poursuite d'un travail utile pour l'Europe.

L'Italie, qui désire offrir la coopération la plus étendue à la réalisation des objectifs prévus par les accords signés dans le cadre de la CEE, tâchera de développer son action selon cette interprétation constructive et concrète de l'esprit d'Helsinki.

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE SOVIETIQUE DE BIELORUSSIE
БЕЛОРУССКАЯ СОВЕТСКАЯ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА

(Г-н МИШКЕВИЧ В.Ф. - первый заместитель Председателя Совета Министров
Белорусской ССР)

Уважаемый господин Председатель!

Мне составляет большое удовольствие поздравить Вас, заместителя Председателя и всех членов Бюро Совещания с избранием на ответственные посты этого важного форума представителей стран ЕЭК ООН. Хотелось бы также выразить большую признательность господину Становнику и его сотрудникам за тот большой труд, который они проделали по подготовке настоящего совещания.

Прошло четыре с небольшим года с тех пор, как в Хельсинки высшими руководителями тридцати пяти государств был подписан Заключительный акт Совещания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе. Время, минувшее после общеевропейского совещания, подтвердило большое значение его итогов для дела мира, разрядки и сотрудничества.

Важнейшими предпосылками для решения многих жизненно важных проблем, встающих в наше время перед человечеством, перед Организацией Объединенных Наций и ее специализированными учреждениями, несомненно, являются совместные усилия государств по предотвращению новой мировой войны, обеспечению прочного мира и безопасности, развитию и углублению процесса разрядки международной напряженности. Только в условиях разрядки возможно эффективное осуществление провозглашенных в Уставе ООН целей и принципов, развитие международного сотрудничества в области экономики, науки, техники, охраны окружающей среды и в других сферах экономической деятельности. Сочетание политической разрядки с военной разрядкой позволит не только уменьшить возможность ядерной катастрофы, но и, сократив расходы на гонку вооружений, высвободить средства для выполнения широкой программы природоохранных мер.

Как указывалось в послании товарища Л.И.Брежнева нашему совещанию, важное значение имеют подписание договора ОСВ-2, а также выдвинутые недавно Советским Союзом по согласованию с другими социалистическими странами новые инициативы, продиктованные заботой об укреплении безопасности в Европе.

Нам особенно дорог мир, потому что мы знаем, что такое война. В прошлой войне Белоруссия потеряла каждого четвертого своего жителя, а общие материальные потери составили 35 годовых предвоенных бюджетов.

Мы считаем, что отношение к разрядке является самым точным показателем намерений в политике любой страны. Одобрение разрядки должно подкрепляться делами, политикой государств, в том числе в плане активизации совместных действий в различных областях международного сотрудничества.

Как известно, в европейском регионе вследствие ряда факторов с особой силой проявились отрицательные последствия воздействия интенсивной хозяйственной деятельности на окружающую среду.

Серьезную тревогу общественности и ученых вызывает загрязнение атмосферы и водных бассейнов Европы, сокращение водных ресурсов, исчезновение отдельных видов флоры и фауны; нередки случаи промышленных аварий, вызывающих не только загрязнение окружающей среды, но и заражение ее токсичными веществами.

Вполне очевидно, что мероприятия отдельных стран, ограниченные национальными или субрегиональными рамками, не позволяют решить экологические задачи международного масштаба. Страны европейского региона связывает целый ряд общих, можно сказать, трансевропейских водных бассейнов, речных путей, постоянных потоков атмосферного воздуха. Загрязнители из одной страны могут легко переноситься на территорию других государств.

Позвольте мне очень кратко остановиться на вопросах охраны окружающей среды в нашей республике.

Защита окружающей среды рассматривается в Белорусской ССР как фактор экономического развития, фактор повышения благосостояния народа.

В Конституции Белорусской ССР содержится специальная статья, которая гласит, что "в интересах настоящего и будущих поколений... принимаются необходимые меры для охраны и научно обоснованного, рационального использования земли и ее недр, водных ресурсов, растительного и животного мира, для сохранения в чистоте воздуха и воды, обеспечения воспроизводства природных богатств и улучшения окружающей человека среды".

Эффективное решение задач в области охраны окружающей среды обеспечивается благодаря общественной собственности на средства производства, на землю, на недра, централизованному планированию экономики и развитию науки и техники.

Охрана атмосферного воздуха в Белорусской ССР регламентирована специальным государственным законодательством и осуществляется комплексно и в плановом порядке. Особо хотелось бы отметить важность развития малоотходной и безотходной технологии. Эта задача рассматривается компетентными органами нашей республики как ключевая, т.к. ее дальнейшее решение даст по существу ключ к решению главных проблем охраны природы.

В республике осуществляется также система мероприятий, направленных на рациональное использование и охрану водных ресурсов, флоры, фауны и ландшафта. Около 80% потребностей промышленности в воде удовлетворяются прогрессивными системами оборотного и повторного водоснабжения. Большое внимание уделяется вопросам рационального использования земли. За прошедшее десятилетие в Белоруссии проведены мелиоративные работы на площади свыше 2-х миллионов гектаров.

Площади годовых посадок леса у нас превышают площади вырубок, лесистость близка к оптимальной для развитых в промышленном отношении территорий. Общая площадь заповедно-заказных территорий в республике составляет свыше 6,5 тысяч квадратных километров.

Одну из важных целей настоящего совещания мы видим в том, чтобы всемерно стимулировать развитие практического сотрудничества в Европе в деле охраны окружающей среды, создать более благоприятные условия для такого сотрудничества.

Подписание Конвенции и принятие резолюции о трансграничном переносе загрязнителей воздуха на большие расстояния мы рассматриваем как отражение решимости стран-участниц совещания предохранить воздушный бассейн Европы от загрязнения и с этой целью сокращать и предотвращать поступление в него загрязняющих веществ. Весьма важно, что Конвенцией предусматривается ряд конкретных мер в этом направлении: организация постоянного наблюдения за состоянием атмосферного воздуха в Европе, проведение совместных исследований и разработок, регулярный обмен соответствующей информацией. По поручению правительства Белорусской ССР сегодня же я подпишу этот документ.

Принятие на настоящем совещании Декларации по малоотходной и безотходной технологии и полторном использовании отходов и осуществление записанных в ней намерений и рекомендаций будут способствовать предупреждению ущерба окружающей среде, более рациональному использованию энергии и сырья, сохранению ценных невозобновляемых ресурсов.

Вместе с тем было бы важно разработать согласованные документы по другим темам, отвечающим критериям, изложенным в резолюции Комиссии 1 (XXXII), а именно: предупреждения и борьбы с загрязнением водных ресурсов, включая транснациональное загрязнение, защиты флоры, фауны и ландшафта, контроля за токсичными веществами и токсичными отходами. Достижение договоренностей и выработка соответствующих международных документов по отмеченным вопросам, несомненно, содействовали бы повышению ответственности сторон и увеличению эффективности мероприятий, планируемых в этих областях на национальном уровне и в рамках международного сотрудничества.

В заключение, господин Председатель, мне хочется обратить внимание на то, что активные совместные действия государств района ЕЭК на поприще охраны окружающей среды, в том числе и наше совещание, являются еще одним важным вкладом и стимулом к разворачиванию их плодотворного сотрудничества и в других актуальных областях, как, например, энергетика и транспорт, в интересах народов этих стран и на основе благоприятных предпосылок, созданных Хельсинкским совещанием.

Мы поддерживаем предложение делегации Народной Республики Болгарии о том, чтобы доклад настоящего совещания и принятые на нем документы были направлены председателю Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН.

Мы считаем необходимым также, чтобы доклад настоящего совещания и принятые на нем документы были должным образом представлены предстоящей мадридской встрече представителей государств-участников Совещания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе.

PORTUGAL
ПОРТУГАЛИЯ

(M. J. da Silva Bruschy, Secrétaire d'Etat portugais aux affaires urbaines et à l'environnement)

La décision de convoquer une Réunion à haut niveau, dans le cadre de la CEE, sur la protection de l'environnement, a été prise à la dernière session de la Commission, après des travaux préparatoires particulièrement intenses.

Le Gouvernement portugais se réjouit de la tenue de cette Réunion à haut niveau, la première du genre à être organisée par la CEE.

Pour ma délégation, l'importance de notre Réunion est double : d'une part, elle donne un élan nouveau à la coopération entre les pays membres de la Région, apportant ainsi une contribution précieuse pour donner effet, d'une façon concrète, aux dispositions pertinentes de l'Acte final de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe. Notre Réunion témoigne du désir de tous nos gouvernements de mettre en oeuvre de façon concrète les dispositions de l'Acte final. D'autre part, cette coopération accrue concerne le domaine de l'environnement. Les problèmes de protection de l'environnement ne cessent de prendre de l'ampleur et les populations de nos pays y sont de plus en plus sensibles.

Nous pensons que la coopération internationale dans ce domaine est essentielle et primordiale. En effet, aucun pays, même pas ceux disposant de moyens humains, scientifiques, techniques et financiers très élevés, ne peut assurer tout seul à sa population un environnement de qualité. Cet environnement est inévitablement affecté par de nombreuses activités humaines, sources de nuisances et de pollution dont les effets néfastes se font sentir bien au-delà des frontières des pays où elles ont leur source.

Les problèmes d'environnement se posent à tous les pays, quels que soient leur situation géographique, leur structure industrielle, le mode de vie des populations. Toutefois, leur degré d'intensité varie fortement de pays à pays. De même, il convient de souligner que pour certains des membres de la Commission, les problèmes les plus graves concernent la pollution de l'air, pour d'autres les difficultés les plus graves proviennent de la pollution de l'eau.

Il faudra que dans les travaux futurs, la Commission tienne compte de la nécessité de s'attaquer à tous les grands problèmes de pollution.

L'état de l'environnement de chaque pays est étroitement lié à sa situation économique, à son stade de développement. Nous estimons donc qu'en matière d'environnement, comme dans de nombreux autres domaines, les pays membres qui sont en développement du point de vue économique doivent faire face à des problèmes spécifiques, dont il faut tenir compte.

Curieusement, en ce qui concerne l'environnement, les problèmes sont spécifiques mais contrairement à ce qui se passe dans d'autres domaines, les pays moins industrialisés sont souvent, pour ce qui est des problèmes de pollution, dans une situation plus favorable que les pays hautement industrialisés. L'expérience de ces derniers peut être d'une grande utilité, notamment par une prise de conscience de la nécessité de combattre le mal dès les premiers symptômes.

L'action du Gouvernement portugais est guidée par la volonté d'aborder les problèmes d'environnement en tant qu'aspect fondamental de la qualité de vie de la population que l'on se propose d'améliorer en tenant compte de notre culture et en veillant à ce que la qualité de vie ne soit pas confondue avec une simple croissance du produit national.

D'autre part, nous considérons que les mesures de protection doivent être prises en tenant aussi compte du développement des activités d'intérêt économique.

Nous avons adopté hier matin officiellement la Convention et la Résolution sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance ainsi que la Déclaration sur les techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets et la réutilisation et le recyclage des déchets. C'était le principal objectif de notre Réunion à haut niveau. Nous ne pouvons que nous en féliciter.

Le problème de la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière s'est aggravé ces dernières années malgré les mesures de lutte prises aux niveaux national et international. Bien que le problème concerne l'ensemble de notre région, certains pays sont tout spécialement touchés par ce type de pollution.

Mon pays ne figure pas parmi ces derniers.

Toutefois, le Portugal, pour démontrer, une fois encore, sa volonté de coopération internationale, signera dans quelques minutes la Convention, convaincu que son application constituera un pas important dans la lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance.

Nous donnons également notre plein appui à la Déclaration sur les techniques peu polluantes et ne manquerons pas de tenir dûment compte des recommandations qui y figurent.

Je voudrais maintenant dire quelques mots au sujet d'une question spécialement importante pour le Portugal et pour d'autres pays membres de la CEE. Il s'agit de la pollution de l'eau, y compris la pollution transfrontière de l'eau, question mentionnée spécifiquement à l'intérieur du point 3 de notre ordre du jour.

En ce qui concerne mon pays, la situation des eaux intérieures est préoccupante. Certains importants cours d'eau ont atteint un degré de pollution fort élevé. Il en est de même pour les fleuves qui ont leur source en dehors de notre territoire. Le problème est complexe et ne pourra être résolu que par un instrument international définissant des niveaux de qualité des eaux à respecter.

Etant donné l'importance de la pollution transfrontière de l'eau dans le cadre général de l'environnement et la gravité que le problème de la qualité de l'eau présente dans notre région, nous avons, lors de nos travaux préparatoires, insisté sur la nécessité d'inclure ce thème dans l'ordre du jour de la Réunion à haut niveau.

Malheureusement, le degré de préparation de ces thèmes n'a pas permis l'adoption, dès à présent, de textes concernant la pollution transfrontière de l'eau.

Nous espérons cependant que le Comité des problèmes de l'eau en collaboration avec les Conseillers pour les problèmes de l'environnement traiteront cette question en profondeur, en vue d'arriver, à un stade ultérieur, à l'élaboration d'instruments contraignants.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE SOVIETIQUE D'UKRAINE
УКРАИНСКАЯ СОВЕТСКАЯ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА

(Г-н КОЧЕВЫХ И.П. — Заместитель Председателя
Совета Министров Украинской ССР)

Уважаемый господин Председатель!

Прежде всего, разрешите поздравить Вас с избранием на пост председателя Обще-европейского совещания и пожелать Вам больших успехов на этом высоком посту. В Вашем лице мы поздравляем также других членов президиума совещания.

Защита окружающей среды принадлежит к числу жизненно важных проблем, встающих перед человечеством. Поэтому настоящее совещание может создать условия для плодотворного и перспективного сотрудничества европейских государств во имя решения задач защиты окружающей среды, ставших неотложными не только для Европы, но и для всего мира.

Наша делегация рассматривает совещание в качестве составной части многостороннего процесса, начатого в Хельсинки. Последовательно проводя курс на расширение и укрепление взаимопонимания между народами, упрочение международного мира и безопасности, страны социалистического содружества предпринимают все от них зависящее для того, чтобы сделать разрядку как непрерывным, так и все более жизнеспособным и всесторонним процессом, всеобщим по охвату, как того требует Заключительный акт общеевропейского совещания. Именно в условиях разрядки стало возможным сделать важный шаг на пути перевода принципиальных договоренностей Заключительного акта, касающихся защиты окружающей среды, на язык практических дел и стимулировать развитие сотрудничества между государствами в этой области.

Жизнь подтверждает, что разрядке международной напряженности нет альтернативы. Либо мир встанет на путь отказа от применения силы, на путь разоружения и разрядки, либо безудержная гонка вооружений поставит под угрозу безопасность народов и сделает нереальными намечаемые планы широкого международного сотрудничества в любой области. Комплексному подходу, стремлению охватить главные составные части военной разрядки в Европе отвечают известные советские предложения, высказанные Леонидом Ильичем Брежневым в столице Германской Демократической Республики Берлине. Только в условиях прочного мира возможен основательный подход к решению глобальных проблем современности, одна из которых является предметом рассмотрения на настоящем совещании.

Совещание призвано рассмотреть фактическое состояние сотрудничества в Европе в области охраны окружающей среды, наметить пути повышения его эффективности, выделив первоочередные направления его развития, выработать практические договоренности об объединении усилий государств для более целенаправленного и быстрого решения самых актуальных проблем. Принятие Конвенции и резолюции о трансграничном загрязнении воздуха на большие расстояния, Декларации о малотоксодной и безотходной технологии и использовании отходов послужат весомым вкладом в этот процесс.

Охрана окружающей среды ныне возведена у нас в ранг государственной политики, стала ее важной социально-экономической частью. Такая политика закреплена в Конституции СССР и Конституции Украинской ССР. Проблемы окружающей среды стали

предметом специального рассмотрения на сессии Верховного Совета Украинской ССР, которая наметила конкретные меры по их решению. Защита окружающей среды и рациональное использование природных ресурсов входят в качестве неотъемлемой составной части в комплексную программу "Основные народнохозяйственные проблемы", которая реализуется в республике.

Успешному выполнению задач в области охраны природы и рационального использования природных ресурсов способствуют благоприятные социальные и экономические условия, присущие социалистическому плановому хозяйству, где нет эксплуатации человека человеком, отсутствует частная собственность на орудия и средства производства, землю, недра, леса и водоемы, являющиеся общенародным достоянием, и где забота о здоровье и условиях жизни и труда народа является первоочередной задачей советского государства.

Природоохранные меры включаются в государственные народнохозяйственные планы, обеспечиваются финансами и материальными средствами. Начиная с 1975 года, в годовых, пятилетних и перспективных планах экономического и социального развития выделяется специальный раздел "Охрана природы и рациональное использование природных ресурсов". В нем содержатся конкретные задания министерствам и ведомствам на планируемый период по охране воздуха, водных, земельных и других природных ресурсов.

Наряду с улучшением планирования природоохранных мероприятий и усилением законодательства, в республике осуществлены меры по упорядочению служб наблюдения и контроля, расширению научно-исследовательских и опытно-конструкторских работ, подготовке специалистов, воспитанию населения в духе бережного отношения к природе.

Весомый вклад в решение проблем охраны окружающей среды вносят ученые республики. Научно-исследовательские разработки в этой области осуществляют академические и отраслевые научные учреждения, а также высшие учебные заведения. Широкое распространение в настоящее время получило научное решение проблемы охраны окружающей среды путем разработки комплексных целевых программ.

Для координации работ, связанных с охраной окружающей среды, в том числе работ по внедрению в производство достижений науки и техники, создан при Государственном комитете Украинской ССР по охране природы Межведомственный научно-технический совет по проблемам окружающей среды, а в составе Академии наук Украинской ССР - Научный совет по проблемам биосферы.

В республике работает национальный комитет Украинской ССР по программе ЮНЕСКО "Человек и биосфера".

Важным направлением защиты окружающей среды является разработка и внедрение безотходной и малоотходной технологии, которая обеспечивает не только уменьшение загрязнения окружающей среды вредными выбросами, но и одновременно повышает эффективность производства.

Предприятиями Министерства черной металлургии Украинской ССР с участием дорожно-строительных и других промышленных предприятий перерабатываются около 95 процентов металлургических шлаков. При этом производятся гранулированные легкие заполнители для бетона, щебень для дорожного строительства, минеральная вата

для создания различных теплоизоляционных материалов. Кроме того, на ряде тепловых электростанций республики выполнены устройства по отбору сухой золы, которая используется в строительном производстве.

Осуществляется разносторонняя программа по предотвращению загрязнения воздуха вредными веществами. В основном завершено оснащение очистными сооружениями сталеплавильных агрегатов и агломерационных фабрик, заводов по производству цемента, предприятий химической промышленности. Только за 1971-1978 годы в республике введено в действие более 3 тысяч пылегазоочистных установок. Общая мощность очистных сооружений обеспечивает очистку почти всего объема газов, отходящих от источников загрязнения. Широкое развитие получило централизованное теплоснабжение, осуществляемое на основе крупных промышленных и отопительных котельных, а также теплоэлектроцентралей.

Основными мероприятиями по охране земельных ресурсов в Украинской ССР является борьба с водной и ветровой эрозией почв, предупреждение засоления и подтопления в связи со строительством различных гидротехнических сооружений, рекультивация нарушенных и обработанных земель, борьба с загрязнением окружающей среды пестицидами. Получают широкое распространение биологические методы защиты растений.

Разработана и успешно осуществляется Генеральная схема противозрозионных мероприятий на 1971-1980 годы. Значительные работы выполняются по созданию защитных лесных полос, облесению песков, оврагов, берегов рек, водоемов. Это позволило предупредить возникновение пыльных бурь и прекратить перенос загрязнителей на большие расстояния.

Большое внимание уделяется в Украинской ССР проблеме охраны и рационального использования водных ресурсов. Решение этой проблемы осуществляется планомерно, путем комплексных мероприятий. Упор делается на ограничении развития водоемких производств, снижении удельного водопотребления на единицу выпускаемой продукции, внедрении новых технологических процессов и схем. Вводятся в действие сотни новых водоохраных комплексов. Это позволяет значительно сократить сброс в водоемы неочищенных сточных вод, а на многих предприятиях полностью исключить загрязнение водных ресурсов неочищенными стоками.

Делегация Украинской ССР исходит из того, что проведение широких и эффективных мер на национальном уровне по охране окружающей среды является основой для решения проблемы в международном масштабе. Вместе с тем плодотворное международное сотрудничество, обмен опытом различных стран, в свою очередь, оказывает положительное влияние на эффективность национальных усилий. Мы должны сообща работать над тем, чтобы основными источниками тепловой и электрической энергии были возобновляемые источники - солнечная, ветровая, водородная энергия, которые не загрязняют окружающую среду.

В производстве материалов и продовольствия мы должны научиться применению полностью безотходных процессов.

Самое лучшее средство борьбы за чистоту среды - ее незагрязнение.

Принятие документов совещания, как мы полагаем, хорошее и нужное начало на пути дальнейшего расширения международного сотрудничества в этой важной области.

Наша делегация хотела бы выразить уверенность в том, что в проблематике будущей деятельности ЕЭК ООН по этому направлению первоочередное внимание будет уделено углубленному изучению проблем безотходных и малоотходных процессов, развитию сотрудничества по охране и рациональному использованию вод, защите фауны и флоры, токсичным веществам и соединениям.

Настоящее совещание послужит хорошим примером того, как решать большие проблемы, стоящие перед человечеством. Мы считаем, что и другие вопросы, имеющие глобальный характер, каковыми являются, например, проблемы энергетики и транспорта, также должны быть рассмотрены на высоком уровне. Это явится существенным вкладом в процесс реализации Заключительного акта Совещания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе и будет способствовать дальнейшему улучшению обстановки на европейском континенте.

В заключение, господин Председатель, делегация Украинской ССР хотела бы отметить, что разработанные в порядке подготовки к настоящему совещанию итоговые документы, в частности конвенция о трансграничном загрязнении воздуха на большие расстояния, отвечают, по нашему мнению, интересам всех участвующих в совещании стран. И я, как представитель Украинской ССР, уполномочен правительством республики подписать данную конвенцию.

ICELAND
ISLANDE
ИСЛАНДИЯ

(Mr. H. Kroyer, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations Office at Geneva)

The initiative taken by Sweden some ten years ago to bring the problem of the environment before the United Nations, and to make it a problem of international concern, marked a milestone in the history of man's attitude towards his natural environment. Your country has been duly praised for that initiative. My delegation finds it most fitting and appropriate that Sweden should preside over this High-level Meeting and thus continue to play a central role also in this ECE effort to tackle the serious problem of air pollution by concerted international action at the regional level.

From the outset, Iceland has taken an active interest in the United Nations work on environmental problems. We have tried to make our contribution particularly in the field of combating the pollution of the oceans, in order to conserve the living resources of the sea.

The same general concern has motivated my Government in participating in the efforts which have now resulted in the Convention to combat long-range transboundary air pollution.

Iceland is fortunate however, in the sense that so far, air pollution has not been a serious problem in my country. The reasons for this are fairly obvious: Iceland is the most sparsely populated country in Europe, with an area of 100,000 km² and a population equal to that of the city of Geneva. Industrialization is on a small scale. Finally, the country is located far away from the industrial areas of Europe and North America. The problems of air pollution which we have had, have therefore mostly been local problems of manageable proportions. In fact, in the context of air pollution problems in other countries, people have pointed to Iceland for its absence of air pollution. For instance, when a team of United States experts were making a film a few years ago on air pollution in industrial cities in America, they came to Iceland to film Reykjavik for contrast, as a city free of smoke.

From time to time, however, Iceland experiences air pollution from natural causes, most frequently pollution caused by salt spray carried inland by wind and precipitation in gales blowing from the sea. A striking example of this phenomenon is the fact that measurements in Reykjavik have shown that in the course of one month precipitation has deposited 80 kg of sodium chloride on each hectare of land in the Reykjavik area.

Another, more serious type of pollution is that caused by volcanic eruptions. Fortunately, such phenomena are not very frequent. They may, however, cause long-range transboundary air pollution. Ashes and noxious substances from volcanic

eruptions in Iceland have been carried as far as Scandinavia and Northern Russia and Siberia. I feel obliged here and now to make the explicit reservation as regards Iceland's obligations under the Convention which we have just signed, that the Government of Iceland can not take upon itself any responsibility for long-range transboundary air pollution caused by volcanic eruptions in Iceland.

I now turn to the specific type of air pollution which our Convention is to deal with - long-range transboundary air pollution caused by man - emanating from the large industrial areas and dense population centres in the countries members of the ECE. Such long-range pollution, emanating from the industrial areas of Europe or North America, is from time to time carried to Iceland and is quite noticeable and measurable, because it constitutes such a clear contrast with the extremely clean air that we are fortunate enough to enjoy in Iceland most of the time.

Ordinarily, the presence of soot particles containing sulphur in the air around Reykjavik or other population centres in Iceland is so small that it is hardly measurable (0.0-0.5 microgrammes of sulphate (SO_4) in a m^3 of air), and the acidity of rain (pH factor) is on the average 5.5-5.6 which is the normal content in pure water in balance with the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere.

Occasionally, when there has been a high pressure area over Britain and the western part of the European continent, and a concentration of pollutants has taken place in the air masses above that area, it happens that these air masses are carried swiftly towards Iceland. On such occasions, the presence in the air of SO_4 in the form of particulate sulphate has reached more than 15 microgrammes in each cubic metre of air, which is about 30 times more than normal for the Reykjavik area. Acid rain in southern Iceland on such occasions has contained up to 1,000 times more acidity than in normal conditions. If we keep in mind the fact that there exists no internal pollutant that could be blamed for such air pollution, these occurrences become very clear proof of long-range transboundary transport of pollutants, and are thus of direct relevance to the successful enforcement of the Convention we have adopted.

Monitoring of such occurrences of long-range airborne pollution might be useful, if only for the purpose of comparison with the monitoring and measurements undertaken in other countries of the ECE area.

Regular measurements of this kind are rather costly, and have until now not been considered necessary in Iceland, because of the low level of air pollution. However, the Icelandic Meteorological Bureau has plans under way to equip a monitoring station at Trafoss in southern Iceland for undertaking such monitoring on a regular basis. The station could then qualify as a "WHO regional air pollution station", provided that sufficient financing could be mustered for the operation of the station. This, however, may prove difficult to provide at the national level.

I have explained that until now air pollution has not created serious problems in my country. I should have given the wrong impression, however, if one were to conclude from my words that the Icelandic environment is in no danger from air pollution. In fact, there have already been cases where air pollution has had considerable impact on the natural environment. I am not here speaking of volcanic eruptions, which at times have covered large portions of Iceland with ashes, with devastating effects on both vegetation and animal and human life. Nor am I speaking of the noxious effects on the vegetation from salts from the sea carried by rain. I am referring to the harmful effects of industrial pollution.

When an aluminum factory was built in Iceland ten years ago it was not considered necessary to equip it with expensive anti-pollution devices. What with Iceland's windy climate, people did not expect that noxious substances from the factory would have any noticeable effect on the Icelandic environment. They were wrong. It turned out that the ecological balance in Iceland was so delicate, the vegetation of the precarious Icelandic summer so sensitive, that even a small amount of pollution from fluor, a small portion of the pollution which vegetation in our neighbouring countries could well tolerate, had damaging effects on the vegetation in the area around the factory and in the neighbourhood of Reykjavik. These observations led to a request by the Icelandic authorities to the company to install the most modern emission control devices. That work is now almost completed.

I have used this example to illustrate that, although air pollution has not been a serious problem in Iceland until now, we have already seen that we must be well on our guard against such pollution.

This environmental concern is now in the foreground of all plans for further industrialization in Iceland. A good example is the recent construction of a ferro-silicon smelter, not far from Reykjavik, which went into operation a few months ago. This new plant is a joint venture of a government-owned Icelandic company and the Norwegian firm Elkjem-Spigerverket.

For the permission to construct the smelter, Icelandic authorities set the most stringent environmental requirements, stipulating that the smelter be equipped with the latest and most sophisticated anti-pollution devices available. This was done, at great expense. I am told that the elaborate emission control equipment is possibly the most modern and most efficient in all of Europe today. Not a wisp of smoke escapes from the plant. The condensed slag trapped from the smoke and fumes by this cleansing equipment is sold to Iceland's only cement factory near by. The interesting fact is that it is already now evident that through the sale of the slag the expensive emission control equipment will amortize itself more quickly than the ferro-silicon plant itself. That striking fact should provide an encouragement and an incentive for industry in the member countries of the ECE to co-operate fully for the attainment of the objectives of our Convention.

The examples I have here described, and in particular the striking occurrences of long-range transboundary air pollution carried to Iceland have convinced the authorities of my country that to combat such pollution effectively, international co-operation and concerted action is necessary. It is against the background of this conviction that the Icelandic Government has signed the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. My Government is furthermore of the opinion that both for the provisional implementation and for the continued effective implementation of the Convention, it is essential that the provisions of paragraph 2 of the Resolution adopted along with the Convention be acted upon without delay. Only if the sufficient staff and financial means are provided for, can the Convention become an effective instrument in our common effort to conserve and to improve our environment.

GREECE

GREECE

ΓΡΕΙΜΑ

(Mr. S. Dimas, Secretary of State for Economic Co-ordination of Greece)

Greece has always been faithful to the principle of peaceful coexistence amongst States, which is a fundamental condition for the promotion of international co-operation. Greece welcomes this Conference with particular satisfaction as a positive step towards the protection of the environment. For there is no doubt, that environmental problems, due to their particular complexity, require international co-operation and solidarity in a most pressing manner. It is hardly coincidental that all international organizations and in particular the United Nations have always been involved in matters relating to the protection of the environment, the quality of which is directly connected with life itself.

An important step towards the protection of the Environment is the Declaration of the Stockholm Conference. In particular, principles 22 and 24 set the basis for international co-operation and principle 21 provides that:

"In accordance to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of International Law, states have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities carried out within their jurisdiction do not cause damage to the environment of other states".

These principles together with the relative resolutions of the General Assembly, constitute the basis of UNEP's efforts to draft the principles of conduct for the guidance of States to the conservation and the harmonious exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States, while principle 21 slightly modified is repeated in the text of the environment of the Final Act of Helsinki.

Greece has noted that both the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, with its related resolution, and the Declaration on Low and Non-waste Technology correspond with the spirit of the Final Act of Helsinki and therefore has endorsed them. It should be emphasized however, that apart from the existence of texts, there must exist the necessary will for their implementation, because only then the quality of life can really be improved.

So it is recognized that the implementation of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will greatly contribute in this direction because: it accepts the need to study the consequences of the transport of air pollutants; it facilitates the development of common terminology; it urges contracting States to progressively decrease the level of air pollution, including transboundary air pollution; it encourages international co-operation and research; it establishes the exchange of information; it sets the conditions to develop a programme of continuous control and assessment of transported air pollutants in the European region; it recommends the creation of an appropriate executive organ; finally it refers to the important issue concerning the settlement of disputes.

We consider this Convention as only a first step in our endeavour to protect the environment. Indeed, of equal importance with air pollution, for many States in the ECE region, is the problem of water pollution including transboundary water pollution. The particular emphasis and priority attached to this problem by international organizations, under the auspices of the United Nations and other non-governmental organizations as well as by the States themselves underlines the urgent necessity to seek solutions. These solutions should comply with the spirit of the Final Act and the relative recommendations of the Water Conference of the United Nations at Mar Del Plata and should abide by the principles of international law and the Declaration of the Stockholm Conference.

The importance and acuteness of water problems in the world does not need to be emphasized. Water is an indispensable element in every biological process, and life itself is absolutely dependent upon it. It is also a fundamental factor to economic and social development and vital to the preservation of the natural environment. The rapid increase in the demand for water and the multiplication of the sources of pollution, require the rational use of water resources and the preservation of its natural quality for the welfare of coming generations.

As far as national water resources are concerned, every State has the sovereign right to their development and protection from pollution. But in the case of international water courses which constitute boundaries between States or flow through two or more States, the arising problems necessitate international co-operation with a view to establishing principles and regulations facilitating their solution.

International organizations have always placed great importance on transboundary water pollution in connexion with water quality and quantity problems. I would like to mention here the work carried out within the framework of ECE (namely the Committee on Water Problems and the Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems); OECD, UNEP, the Council of Europe, as well as the Water Conference of Mar Del Plata. The latter has recommended to the International Law Committee to give priority to international water courses, so that an international convention be drafted. In addition the need to prevent water pollution and in particular transboundary water pollution is stressed in the Final Act of Helsinki. Moreover, principles 21, 22 and 24 of the Stockholm Declaration may be directly applied to this case.

Greece believes that the problems of transboundary water pollution are becoming more acute and delays cannot but impede future solutions. By resolving this problem, we will demonstrate our willingness to strengthen in an exemplary manner the positive co-operation and solidarity of the States we represent to the benefit of the ECE region.

We believe that international lakes and rivers constituting or crossing boundaries can become factors contributing to closer co-operation between riparian States.

It is a fact that waters and aquatic environment in particular are under a continuous threat of increased pollution, that the nature and sort of pollutants are developing in an uncontrollable way and that the assimilative capacity of water bodies is limited especially during the period of low discharges.

It is also undeniable that the rôle of these waters for maintaining the ecological balance of their watersheds is extremely important and that the need for controlling and preventing water pollution including transboundary water pollution is quite evident. To confront and solve these problems, parallel urgent action is necessary among the States concerned, as well as through international organizations.

With all these in mind I conclude by expressing the wish that necessary steps be taken by the competent bodies of the ECE for the elaboration of a draft agreement on water pollution, including transboundary water pollution.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTÉ ECONOMIQUE EUROPÉENNE
КОМИССИЯ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХ СООБЩЕСТВ

(M. L. Natali, Vice-Président de la Commission des Communautés européennes)

M'associant aux paroles prononcées par M. le Ministre Barrett, je tiens, à mon tour, à exprimer la grande satisfaction de la Communauté économique européenne de la tenue de cette réunion à haut niveau organisée dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe sur la protection de l'environnement à laquelle la Communauté se réjouit de participer.

La tenue de cette réunion et ses résultats représentent un important progrès dans le développement de la coopération en Europe et dans le monde. La Communauté a déjà, à de nombreuses occasions, manifesté son attachement à une politique de coopération avec les pays tiers ici représentés, selon les principes énoncés dans l'Acte final de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe.

Cette réunion présente en effet un intérêt tout particulier :

- Son ordre du jour a été soigneusement préparé en vue d'aboutir à des décisions importantes qui se concrétisent aujourd'hui par l'adoption d'une convention et d'une résolution sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance, ainsi qu'une déclaration et des recommandations relatives aux techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets et à la réutilisation et le recyclage des déchets;
- Par leur nature même et la zone géographique dans laquelle ils se situent, les problèmes traités au cours de cette réunion nécessitent, indépendamment des différences qui peuvent exister entre les systèmes économiques et sociaux des Etats intéressés, une action internationale vigoureuse qui trouve tout naturellement sa place dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe et justifie pleinement la présence à Genève des plus hautes personnalités responsables en matière de la protection de l'environnement.

La Communauté économique européenne, qui depuis plusieurs années joue un rôle important dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement et qui a notamment adopté de nombreuses mesures en vue de lutter contre la pollution du milieu naturel, sur lesquelles je reviendrai ultérieurement, se félicite d'autant plus de l'organisation de cette réunion qu'elle n'a pas ménagé ses efforts tout au long des discussions préparatoires en vue d'en faire un véritable succès.

La protection de l'environnement a été reconnue comme une tâche urgente et prioritaire lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement à Stockholm en 1972, qui a donné naissance au Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement.

Depuis, l'attention des peuples et de leurs gouvernements s'est renforcée et a amené ces derniers à prendre différentes mesures en la matière, dans le but de remédier aux dommages causés aux ressources et au milieu naturel par les activités humaines et dans la mesure du possible de les prévenir.

La Commission économique pour l'Europe a accordé une priorité toute particulière à l'environnement dans son programme de travail. La Commission, et en particulier les Conseillers des gouvernements des pays de la Commission économique pour l'Europe pour les problèmes de l'environnement, ont fourni le cadre d'une coopération accrue et toujours grandissante dans le domaine de l'environnement, coopération qui a été maintes fois reconnue indispensable pour la région.

Qu'il me soit permis à cette occasion de rendre un hommage tout particulier à M. le Secrétaire exécutif Janez Stanovnik pour le rôle dynamique et la contribution personnelle qu'il a apportée tout au long de la préparation de cette réunion à haut niveau.

Dès octobre 1972, les Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements des neuf Etats membres de la Communauté économique européenne ont souligné pour leur part à Paris la nécessité "de mettre l'expansion au service de l'homme en lui procurant un environnement qui lui assure les meilleures conditions de vie ainsi que de concilier cette expansion avec la nécessité de plus en plus impérieuse de préserver le milieu naturel" et exprimé leur volonté de voir la Communauté économique européenne se doter d'une politique nouvelle de l'environnement. Cette politique a été définie dans un programme d'action adopté en 1973 et reconduit et mis à jour en 1977.

Ce programme fixe six objectifs à la politique communautaire de l'environnement :

1. Prévenir, réduire et, dans la mesure du possible, supprimer les pollutions et nuisances;
2. Maintenir un équilibre écologique suffisant et veiller à la protection de la biosphère;
3. Veiller à la bonne gestion des ressources et du milieu naturel;
4. Orienter le développement en fonction d'exigences de qualité, notamment par l'amélioration des conditions de travail et de vie;
5. Faire en sorte qu'il soit davantage tenu compte des aspects de l'environnement dans l'aménagement des structures et du territoire;
6. Rechercher, avec les Etats situés hors de la Communauté, des solutions communes aux problèmes d'environnement.

En considérant ainsi l'environnement au sens large du terme, la politique des communautés européennes se définit non seulement comme une politique de bonne gestion des ressources et du milieu naturel, mais encore comme une politique soucieuse de l'amélioration du cadre et des conditions de vie. Elle vise à élargir la rationalité économique et sociale présidant aux décisions et contribue à la recherche de l'expansion équilibrée et du développement harmonieux des activités économiques qui est la mission que le Traité de Rome leur a confiée.

Dans le cadre de cette politique commune et en application de son programme d'action, la Communauté a adopté en six ans plus de quarante réglementations couvrant des domaines aussi variés que la pollution de l'air et de l'eau, - les nuisances acoustiques -, la prévention, la réduction et l'élimination des déchets, - le contrôle des substances chimiques nouvelles et la protection de la flore et de la faune.

Sur le plan international, la Communauté est devenue Partie contractante à plusieurs conventions dans divers secteurs de l'environnement; elle participe également aux activités de nombreuses organisations à caractère régional et international.

Cet ensemble d'actions démontre à la fois l'ampleur des tâches réalisées et le caractère progressif et continu qui marque l'élaboration des méthodes et des législations menées au niveau de la Communauté.

L'ordre du jour de cette réunion à haut niveau porte en particulier sur deux sujets, à savoir la protection de l'air et les techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets et la réutilisation et le recyclage des déchets.

En ce qui concerne le premier sujet, ce n'est pas un hasard si les travaux préparatoires en vue de cette réunion à haut niveau se sont concentrés plus particulièrement sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière et sur l'élaboration d'un instrument juridique sous forme de convention internationale pour la région de la Commission économique pour l'Europe.

Les mesures à prendre à l'égard du transport de polluants qui ne connaît pas de frontières doivent en effet être concertées au niveau géographique le mieux approprié.

C'est bien dans cette optique que nous avons, à la suite des travaux préparatoires pour cette réunion, réussi à élaborer une convention dont les principes fondamentaux prévoient, inter alia, que les Parties sont, tenant dûment compte des faits et des problèmes en cause, déterminées à protéger l'homme et son environnement contre la pollution atmosphérique et s'efforceront de limiter et autant que possible de réduire graduellement et prévenir la pollution atmosphérique, y compris la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance.

Comme l'a déclaré hier M. le Ministre Barrett, Président en exercice du Conseil des Communautés européennes, la communauté qui a procédé à la signature de cette convention dès aujourd'hui, apportera ainsi, à côté des autres Parties contractantes, sa pleine contribution selon les formes et les modalités qui lui sont propres, à la mise en oeuvre de la convention dont la résolution que nous avons adoptée en même temps souligne à juste titre l'intérêt d'une mise en oeuvre rapide.

Cette contribution ne pourra manquer d'être importante et significative. Il suffit de mentionner, par exemple, en relation avec les principes fondamentaux énoncés dans les articles 2 à 5 de la Convention, que la Communauté a déjà adopté depuis 1976 une réglementation limitant la teneur en soufre des gas-oils mis sur le marché et qu'elle mène actuellement des travaux décisifs en vue de se doter d'une législation fixant des normes de qualité de l'air pour le dioxyde de soufre et les particules en suspension, à respecter dans l'ensemble des Etats membres.

En ce qui concerne les techniques peu polluantes et la réutilisation et le recyclage des déchets, cette réunion est appelée à adopter la "Déclaration d'intention et les recommandations relatives à une action sur le plan national et à des activités internationales, notamment des activités consécutives menées en commun dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, dans le domaine des techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets et de la réutilisation et du recyclage des déchets".

La Communauté se réjouit de pouvoir adopter cette Déclaration, à côté des autres participants à cette réunion. Dans ce domaine également, la Communauté a poursuivi une politique qui a conduit à l'adoption d'une directive cadre sur la prévention, la réutilisation et le recyclage des déchets ainsi qu'à des mesures réglementaires concernant certains résidus spécifiques tels que les huiles usagées, les polychlorobiphényles, le dioxyde de titane et les déchets toxiques et dangereux.

De plus, en avril dernier, le Conseil des ministres de la Communauté a souligné la nécessité de mener une politique de déchets assurant une protection plus efficace de l'environnement et une meilleure utilisation des ressources en matières premières et en énergie qu'ils représentent.

Il a, dans ce sens, indiqué des priorités et décidé que des travaux devront être engagés au niveau communautaire, en vue de définir, en tenant compte des actions menées dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, les modalités les plus efficaces de soutien des pouvoirs publics à la recherche et au développement de telles technologies propres, ainsi que de réaliser le recensement des secteurs principalement concernés.

Au-delà des tâches nouvelles que la Commission économique pour l'Europe va ainsi être amenée à accomplir, nous ne saurions oublier l'ensemble des travaux réguliers qu'elle poursuit avec beaucoup de bonheur. Les différents textes que nous adoptons aujourd'hui sont un gage de ce succès.

Il nous reste maintenant à faire en sorte que la coopération développée dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, porte tous ses fruits. Soyez assurés que, pour sa part, la Communauté économique européenne saura s'y employer.

COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
CONSEIL D'AIDE ECONOMIQUE MUTUELLE
СОВЕТ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЙ ВЗАИМОПОМОЩИ

(Г-н Е. ШОПА, заместитель секретаря Совета Экономической Взаимопомощи)

Уважаемый господин Председатель,

Разрешите мне от имени Совета Экономической Взаимопомощи поздравить Вас с избранием на этот высокий пост и пожелать Вам, Вашему заместителю, а также г-ну Становнику и его сотрудникам успешного завершения работы настоящего Сопевания.

Сессия Совета Экономической Взаимопомощи, рассмотрев в 1973 году вопрос о развитии сотрудничества стран-членов СЭВ в области охраны и улучшения окружающей среды, приняла рекомендацию о целесообразности разработки и осуществления мероприятий, проводимых органами СЭВ в этой области, в увязке с мероприятиями, намечаемыми на общеевропейской основе. Эта рекомендация явилась базой для более конкретного и углубленного сотрудничества СЭВ с Европейской экономической комиссией Организации Объединенных Наций, а также создала определенные предпосылки для более регулярных контактов с ООН в рамках Программы ООН по окружающей среде в этой области.

Подписание Заключительного акта Сопевания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе открыло широкие перспективы для развития конструктивного и делового сотрудничества между всеми европейскими государствами в различных областях, включая и охрану окружающей среды.

Страны-члены СЭВ и Совет Экономической Взаимопомощи придадут первостепенное значение решению проблем, связанных с улучшением условий жизни человека. Поэтому страны-члены СЭВ поддержали инициативу Советского Союза по созыву настоящего Сопевания, призванного сделать новый крупный шаг в этом направлении - принять Конвенцию о трансграничном переносе загрязнителей воздуха на большие расстояния, а также деклараций о малоотходной и безотходной технологии и повторном использовании отходов.

В связи с проводимыми в рамках ЕЭК ООН работами по подготовке вышеуказанного Сопевания секретариат СЭВ в определенной мере содействовал принятию решения о его созыве.

Вопросы охраны окружающей среды занимают важное место в деятельности Совета Экономической Взаимопомощи. Многостороннее сотрудничество стран-членов СЭВ в этой области проводится в рамках СЭВ начиная с середины шестидесятых годов. Особенно широкое развитие это сотрудничество получило в последние 5-7 лет, в том числе и по проблеме защиты воздушного бассейна от загрязнения, т.е. проблеме, непосредственно относящейся к тематике данного Сопевания. Сотрудничество по этой проблеме в первую очередь направлено на создание и совершенствование существующих методов, конструкций установок и оборудования, а также технологических процессов, способствующих уменьшению пылегазовых выбросов в атмосферу. В частности, разрабатываются методы расчета и прогноза рассеивания в атмосфере промышленных выбросов от различных источников, совершенствуются методы контроля и защиты атмосферы от загрязнений. Разрабатывается ряд стандартов СЭВ по этим вопросам.

Приведенные сведения о результатах, полученных в ходе реализации общей развернутой программы по охране окружающей среды, относятся непосредственно к вопросам, обсуждаемым на настоящем Сопевании на высоком уровне.

Кроме того, сотрудничающими организациями заинтересованных стран-членов СЭВ в области охраны и улучшения окружающей среды и связанного с этим рационального использования природных ресурсов успешно проводятся работы и по другим проблемам общей развернутой программы сотрудничества стран-членов СЭВ.

Следует отметить, что научно-исследовательскими и проектно-конструкторскими организациями заинтересованных стран-членов СЭВ, участвующими в выполнении общей развернутой программы, начиная с 1975 года выполнен большой объем работ и получены многочисленные результаты, включающие фундаментальные теоретические исследования, прикладные исследования, проектно-конструкторские разработки, новые технологические процессы, методы, методики и нормативные материалы, различные приборы, установки, оборудование, а также технические задания и требования на проектирование различных объектов и установок для целей защиты и предупреждения окружающей среды от загрязнения. Многие результаты, полученные в ходе сотрудничества, широко применяются в заинтересованных странах-членах СЭВ.

Всего за период с 1975 года до начала 1979 года закончено сотрудничающими организациями стран-членов СЭВ около 1 600 работ.

Материалы о проводимой в этой области работе наша организация передала секретариату ЕЭК.

В рамках СЭВ подготавливается также пятилетняя программа сотрудничества в области мало- и безотходных технологий и повторного использования и рециркуляции отходов. В рамках этой программы намечается осуществить разработку ряда общетеоретических вопросов и методик технико-экономической оценки эффективности перехода на малоотходную технологию, математических методов моделирования и оптимизации безотходных технологических производств.

Подробные сведения о многостороннем сотрудничестве стран-членов СЭВ и деятельности органов Совета в указанных областях содержатся в специальной информации, представленной нами участникам настоящего Совещания. Из этой информации и переданного Вам сборника материалов видна та большая работа, которая проводится в рамках Совета Экономической Взаимопомощи по проблемам, обсуждаемым на данном Совещании, в том числе в связи с принятием Конвенции о трансграничном переносе загрязнителей воздуха.

Высоко оценивая содержание этой Конвенции, мы исходим из того, что реализация ее положений является прежде всего делом государств-участников этой Конвенции, а задачи международных организаций, объединяющих ту или иную группу европейских государств-членов ЕЭК, заключаются, по нашему мнению, в том, чтобы всей своей деятельностью способствовать успешному решению проблем, связанных с защитой воздушного бассейна от загрязнения.

Придавая большое значение данному вопросу, секретариат Совета Экономической Взаимопомощи намерен изучить с привлечением экспертов наших стран вопрос о целесообразности и возможных формах участия СЭВ в Конвенции о трансграничном переносе загрязнителей воздуха.

В заключение я хотел бы еще раз подтвердить, что наша организация преисполнена решимости внести свой вклад в изучение, разработку и решение вопросов охраны окружающей среды, входящих в компетенцию Совета, в том числе и вопросов, связанных с защитой воздушного бассейна. Пользуясь случаем, я хотел бы заявить о том, что Совет Экономической Взаимопомощи будет и впредь активно сотрудничать с Европейской экономической комиссией по этим вопросам.

Мы выражаем уверенность в том, что настоящее Сопецаание явится практическим вкладом в дело претворения в жизнь положений Заключительного акта Сопецаания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
ЕВРОПЕЙСКИЙ СОВЕТ

(H. F. Karasek; Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe)

Le Conseil de l'Europe, qui compte actuellement vingt et un Etats membres, sait mesurer toute l'importance du chemin parcouru depuis 1949 sur le plan de la coopération européenne et internationale, grâce notamment aux efforts déployés au sein des Nations Unies, tout autant qu'à la suite de la signature de l'Acte final d'Helsinki.

Le Conseil de l'Europe, comme chacun de nos Gouvernements, comme chacune des organisations internationales représentées ici, doit assumer sa place dans cette heureuse évolution, où le dialogue doit l'emporter sur la confrontation et l'esprit de solidarité européenne sur toutes les formes de rivalité qui nous ont, à travers les siècles, causé tant de torts.

L'engagement de notre Organisation à tous les niveaux de la coopération internationale n'a cessé d'être affirmé et réaffirmé dans l'ensemble des textes définissant son rôle depuis sa création. En effet, l'article 1c) du Statut même préconise que "la participation des membres aux travaux du Conseil de l'Europe ne doit pas altérer leur contribution à l'oeuvre des Nations Unies et d'autres organisations ou unions internationales auxquelles ils sont parties".

C'est dans cet esprit que les Gouvernements de nos Etats membres ont adopté en 1974 une importante résolution sur le rôle futur de l'Organisation où figurent, parmi les objectifs prioritaires en matière de relations extérieures, nos relations avec la Commission économique pour l'Europe en général et dans un certain nombre de domaines particuliers, dont l'environnement.

Depuis le début des années soixante jusqu'à ce jour, le Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe n'a cessé d'affirmer son intérêt pour les relations de l'Organisation avec les Etats tiers, notamment européens, celle-ci "ne constituant pas un bloc, mais restant largement ouverte sur le monde dans les limites imposées par son Statut". En 1969, par exemple, le Comité des Ministres affirmait une fois de plus "que les contacts multilatéraux entre le Conseil de l'Europe et les pays de l'Est européen dans les domaines technique, juridique et culturel, peuvent contribuer efficacement à la détente en Europe".

Depuis lors, la signature par l'ensemble de nos Etats membres de l'Acte final de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, a confirmé, de manière éclatante, l'actualité et l'opportunité d'une telle coopération à l'échelle de tout le continent. En effet, dans le chapitre consacré aux suites de la Conférence, les Etats participants "déclarent leur résolution dans la période suivant la Conférence de tenir dûment compte des dispositions de l'Acte final de la Conférence et de les appliquer : unilatéralement dans tous les cas qui se prêtent à une telle action, bilatéralement par voie de négociation avec d'autres pays participants et multilatéralement par des réunions d'experts des Etats participants ainsi que dans le cadre des organisations internationales existantes, telles que la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies et l'UNESCO, en ce qui concerne la coopération dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture".

Ma présence parmi vous aujourd'hui n'est donc pas le fait du hasard ou de la routine diplomatique, elle s'inscrit dans la logique même d'un réflexe européen, au sens le plus large, tout autant que dans la tradition d'une coopération établie de longue date déjà entre le Conseil de l'Europe et la Commission économique pour l'Europe, grâce notamment aux excellentes relations que nous n'avons cessé d'entretenir avec l'actuel Secrétaire exécutif de cette Commission, M. Janez Stanovnik, auquel je tiens à rendre hommage.

L'ordre du jour de cette réunion à haut niveau me permet de mettre en lumière quelques-unes des activités du Conseil de l'Europe se rapportant aux problèmes de l'environnement.

Depuis 1962, mais surtout depuis 1970, Année européenne de la Nature, nous n'avons cessé de déployer des efforts à tous les niveaux en vue d'apporter notre contribution à la sauvegarde du patrimoine naturel menacé, tout autant qu'à l'aménagement et à la gestion de l'environnement. Nombre des travaux entrepris au sein de notre Organisation, par exemple les inventaires d'espèces animales menacées, prennent en considération les problèmes à l'échelle de l'ensemble du continent. Il est un fait que depuis de nombreuses années le Conseil de l'Europe pratique, dans le domaine de l'environnement notamment, une politique d'ouverture. C'est ainsi que le Centre européen d'information du Conseil de l'Europe sur la conservation de la nature facilite depuis 1970 les échanges d'information entre tous les pays européens, ainsi que la collaboration d'éminents biologistes de ces pays à la revue NATUROPA.

C'est également dans la ligne de cette évolution qu'a été élaborée, au sein du Conseil de l'Europe, la récente Convention relative à la conservation de la vie sauvage et du milieu naturel de l'Europe, signée le 19 septembre 1979 à Berne par 18 de nos pays membres, par la Finlande et par la Communauté économique européenne. La vocation paneuropéenne de cette Convention s'inscrit dans la logique même du sujet qu'elle traite et se reflète jusque dans son préambule libellé comme suit : "Les Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe et les autres signataires de la présente Convention, ... considérant la volonté du Conseil de l'Europe de coopérer avec d'autres Etats dans le domaine de la conservation de la nature ... etc".

Cet instrument juridique est donc bien conçu de manière à faciliter au maximum l'adhésion d'Etats non membres. Des pouvoirs spéciaux ont été confiés aux parties contractantes à cet effet. Ainsi, par exemple, est-il constitué, dans le cadre de la Convention, un Comité permanent qui peut (je cite) "à l'unanimité inviter tout Etat non membre du Conseil de l'Europe qui n'est pas partie contractante à cette Convention à se faire représenter par un observateur à une de ces réunions". En outre, "tout organisme ou toute institution techniquement qualifié dans le domaine de la protection, de la conservation, de la gestion de la flore et de la faune sauvage et de leurs habitats et appartenant à l'une des catégories suivantes : organismes ou institutions internationaux, soit gouvernementaux, soit non gouvernementaux, organismes ou institutions nationaux non gouvernementaux qui ont été agréés à cette fin dans l'Etat dans lequel ils sont établis peuvent informer le Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe trois mois au moins avant la réunion du Comité de leur intention de se faire représenter à cette réunion par des observateurs".

Par ailleurs, l'article 14 prévoit que le Comité permanent peut "faire toute proposition valable pour l'efficacité de la présente Convention et portant notamment sur la conclusion avec les Etats qui ne sont pas parties contractantes à la Convention d'accords propres à rendre plus efficace la conservation d'espèces ou de groupes d'espèces".

D'une manière générale, la Convention relative à la conservation de la vie sauvage et du milieu naturel de l'Europe est un instrument d'une souplesse telle qu'il se prête particulièrement à une coopération avec un maximum d'Etats.

Depuis des années, comme j'ai eu l'occasion de l'indiquer tout à l'heure, le Conseil de l'Europe suit les travaux de la Commission économique pour l'Europe avec la plus grande attention et y participe, chaque fois que cela est possible. Les relations de travail entre nos deux secrétariats se sont développées de manière très fructueuse.

Je tiens d'autre part à souligner combien notre Organisation se félicite aujourd'hui de la naissance au sein de la Commission économique pour l'Europe d'une Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontalière à longue distance. A cet égard, permettez-moi d'attirer votre attention sur la Recommandation 867 adoptée par l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe le 28 juin dernier, relative précisément à la pollution atmosphérique transfrontalière à longue distance. Dans ce texte, l'Assemblée "rappelant que l'Acte final de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe considère que la lutte contre la pollution de l'air, notamment contre le transport de polluants à longue distance doit être l'un des domaines de coopération entre les Etats européens ... recommande au Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe d'inviter les gouvernements des Etats membres à signer la Convention de la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontalière à longue distance à la réunion à haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement qui se tiendra à Genève en novembre 1979 et de la ratifier le plus rapidement possible".

Dans la même recommandation, l'Assemblée invite également notre Comité des Ministres : "à développer sans délai une plus large coopération dans les zones à problèmes, dans la perspective de la Convention de la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies et en particulier des stratégies et politiques permettant de réduire la pollution atmosphérique provoquée par les composants du soufre".

Je pense que l'on ne saurait être plus clair quant à la volonté manifestée par le Conseil de l'Europe et son Assemblée à cet égard, et je suis persuadé, pour ma part, que les Gouvernements ne manqueront pas de s'engager dans la voie ainsi préconisée.

Pour ce qui est de l'avenir, j'aimerais souligner que nous suivons avec un intérêt particulier vos travaux dans le domaine de l'eau, étant donné que le Conseil de l'Europe a mis au point, entre autres, un projet de convention européenne pour la protection des cours d'eau internationaux contre la pollution. Lorsqu'elle sera adoptée, cette convention pourrait fournir une base pour une coopération plus étendue dans la lutte contre la pollution des eaux en Europe, englobant également des pays non membres.

D'autre part, pour ce qui est de la protection de la vie sauvage et de la gestion des zones protégées, il nous paraît évident qu'une coopération entre les secrétariats de la Commission économique pour l'Europe et du Conseil de l'Europe pourrait revêtir un intérêt réciproque. C'est ainsi qu'un certain nombre d'études menées au sein du Conseil de l'Europe sur les biotopes menacés se prêtent objectivement à une telle coopération. Nous pourrions en outre envisager que les études futures du Conseil de l'Europe sur les espèces animales ou végétales menacées d'extinction soient entreprises en commun. Enfin, la gestion des parcs nationaux et naturels pourrait faire l'objet d'échanges d'expériences utiles tant pour votre Organisation que pour la nôtre.

Vous le voyez, les zones de convergence entre nos activités et nos intérêts objectifs ne manquent ni dans le passé ni dans le présent, ni surtout pour l'avenir. Pour ce qui est de l'avenir, je connais les préoccupations de la Commission économique pour l'Europe en ce qui concerne la mise au point d'un programme d'activité dans le domaine de la protection de la faune, de la flore et des milieux naturels. Il va de soi que dans la mesure où la Commission le souhaiterait, le secrétariat du Conseil de l'Europe pourrait utilement coopérer aux réunions d'experts prévues pour la mise au point d'un tel programme.

Je pense, en toute objectivité, que la coopération du Conseil de l'Europe, réunissant vingt et un Etats européens, pour la mise au point d'un tel programme, ne manquerait pas de présenter un intérêt réel.

En concluant, j'aimerais vous remercier de l'occasion qui vient d'être donnée au Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe de se faire entendre parmi vous et de répondre présent à cette manifestation paneuropéenne qui nous donne l'occasion de fournir ensemble des réponses à l'un des nombreux problèmes que nous avons en commun. Je vous remercie de votre attention.

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
ORGANISATION DE COOPERATION ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUES
ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА И РАЗВИТИЯ

(M. G. Eldin, Directeur général adjoint de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques)

Il n'est que de voir les éminentes personnalités qui se succèdent à cette tribune pour comprendre toute l'importance et la portée qu'attachent à cette réunion les gouvernements représentés ici. Je voudrais donc remercier vivement le Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies, M. Stanovnik, d'avoir invité l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter en cette circonstance, à prendre part à cette réunion. Je voudrais aussi profiter de cette occasion pour adresser mes sincères félicitations au secrétariat de la Commission économique pour l'Europe qui a oeuvré avec tant de talents et d'efforts pour mener à bonne fin les travaux préparatoires de la Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance dont nous saluons l'adoption et la signature. Puis-je ajouter, Monsieur le Président, que votre présence dans ce fauteuil constitue un gage supplémentaire de succès de cette réunion, et nous rappelle le rôle éminent que la Suède a joué dans la promotion de la coopération internationale en matière d'environnement.

Cette réunion constitue à plusieurs égards un événement international marquant.

a) Il témoigne, en premier lieu, d'une évolution remarquable, à savoir qu'au cours des dix dernières années, la protection de l'environnement est devenue une préoccupation majeure des Gouvernements, au nord comme au sud, à l'est comme à l'ouest. Cela sera compté, j'en suis convaincu, comme une des réalisations essentielles de la décennie qui s'achève et que tant de difficultés, économiques et autres, ont marquée par ailleurs.

b) Il atteste également que la protection de l'environnement est un domaine privilégié de la coopération internationale. S'il est vrai que l'interdépendance économique entre les nations n'a cessé de s'accroître, il est juste d'ajouter que les gouvernements et l'opinion publique sont devenus de plus en plus conscients d'une interdépendance écologique. Qu'il s'agisse de la gestion commune des ressources naturelles de l'humanité, de la lutte contre toutes les formes de pollution, de la préservation du patrimoine historique ou de l'amélioration du cadre de vie, les nations apparaissent de plus en plus solidaires. Les efforts nationaux doivent donc se compléter et se renforcer. En particulier, les politiques doivent, dans toute la mesure du possible, être harmonisées entre elles de manière à éviter des distorsions ou des créations de nouveaux obstacles aux échanges. Ces multiples efforts constituent, à n'en pas douter, une contribution appréciable au maintien des relations pacifiques entre nations, quels que soient leur structure socio-économique et leur degré de développement.

Ce n'est donc pas sans raison que nombre d'organisations internationales ont développé leurs activités dans ce domaine, chacune d'entre elles apportant sa contribution spécifique.

En ce qui concerne l'OCDE, organisation à vocation économique, qui regroupe vingt-quatre des pays les plus industrialisés du monde, les travaux de son Comité de l'environnement, créé en 1970, se sont développés à la charnière de l'économie

et de l'écologie. Si la prise en compte des facteurs environnementaux dans les décisions de politique économique et sociale a constitué un progrès significatif, il va de soi que la démarche inverse n'est pas moins nécessaire et que tout effort pour définir des politiques d'environnement qui négligerait les considérations économiques serait voué à l'échec. C'est pourquoi l'accent a été mis dans les travaux de l'OCDE sur des questions telles que par exemple, l'internalisation des coûts de lutte contre la pollution (adoption, en 1972, du principe pollueur-payeur), la pollution transfrontière, les problèmes d'environnement liés à l'énergie, aux produits chimiques dangereux, au développement du tourisme et à la gestion des villes.

Le caractère exceptionnel de l'événement qui nous réunit suffirait à justifier la présence d'un représentant de l'OCDE. Permettez-moi cependant de mentionner deux raisons de satisfaction plus spécifiques :

a) Ce sont d'abord les relations très étroites qui ont été établies entre l'OCDE et la Commission économique pour l'Europe, dès le début de nos travaux respectifs dans le domaine de l'environnement. Qu'il me suffise de rappeler qu'en vertu d'une résolution du Conseil de février 1971, des invitations sont adressées régulièrement au secrétariat de la Commission économique pour l'Europe de participer à des réunions du Comité de l'environnement de l'OCDE; de même, les représentants du secrétariat de l'OCDE assistent volontiers à des réunions de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, à l'invitation du Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission.

Ainsi se sont développées des relations de travail très fructueuses et mutuellement avantageuses pour les deux organisations.

b) En second lieu, je voudrais mentionner le fait que les travaux entrepris par la Commission économique pour l'Europe dans le domaine de la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière représentent le prolongement direct de ceux que l'OCDE a entrepris au début de cette décennie.

Je rappellerai que, dès 1972, un important programme technique de mesure et d'analyse des phénomènes de déplacements de polluants atmosphériques sur de longues distances a été lancé à l'OCDE, mettant en jeu des moyens considérables (70 stations de mesure au sol, de nombreux prélèvements par avion, l'utilisation en commun d'un centre de traitement de données, etc.). Ce programme a permis, après cinq années de travaux menés en coopération par onze pays européens de l'OCDE, de dresser une carte des flux polluants par origine et par destination. Les résultats obtenus ont confirmé que les oxydes de soufre pouvaient se déplacer sur de très grandes distances, que, par conséquent, peu de pays européens pouvaient contrôler de manière indépendante le niveau de pollution par le soufre qui affectait leur territoire, et que ces mouvements débordaient largement le cadre géographique des pays européens membres de l'OCDE. La nécessité d'une coopération internationale entre les pays d'Europe apparaissait donc évidente, et il était clair que la Commission économique pour l'Europe était bien placée pour promouvoir la coopération sur une base géographique élargie.

Nous pouvons aujourd'hui nous féliciter d'avoir tiré parti d'une évidente complémentarité d'actions entre les deux organisations. C'est une réponse à ceux qui s'inquièteraient des risques de double emploi entre organisations internationales.

Je voudrais, en terminant, présenter, à la lumière des travaux de l'OCDE, quelques brèves remarques sur le sujet qui nous réunit :

1. Une première remarque serait de constater que, parallèlement au programme technique que je viens d'évoquer, l'OCDE a également engagé depuis 1974 un important effort visant à définir des éléments de politique concertée de lutte contre la pollution transfrontière de l'air, qui s'est concrétisé sous forme de sept recommandations du Conseil.

2. Ma deuxième remarque, qui n'est pas sans relation avec la première, consiste à noter que des progrès sensibles ont déjà été accomplis, dans les pays de l'OCDE, pour contrôler la pollution de l'air. Les informations que nous avons rassemblées l'année dernière dans un premier "rapport sur l'état de l'environnement" montrent en particulier une diminution sensible de la pollution par les composés de soufre dans un grand nombre de villes et de régions.

Cependant, cette appréciation favorable doit immédiatement être accompagnée d'une observation complémentaire, à savoir que les changements survenus ou prévisibles dans le domaine de l'énergie sont susceptibles de donner une dimension nouvelle au problème. J'ai à l'esprit la nécessaire réhabilitation du charbon qui, nécessaire à l'équilibre futur des marchés énergétiques, entraîne des problèmes évidents pour l'environnement aux trois stades de la production, du transport et de la consommation. Ces problèmes figurent en bonne place parmi ceux étudiés à l'OCDE.

3. La réduction de la pollution atmosphérique est une opération qui impliquera des dépenses considérables et, dès lors, ne pourra être entreprise que de façon progressive. Mais c'est aussi une opération dont le bilan avantages/coûts devrait être, du point de vue économique, positif. Le premier avantage, et sans nul doute le plus important, se situe dans le domaine de la santé. Mais une moindre pollution aura aussi pour conséquence de réduire les dommages de corrosion des matériaux, les dommages causés aux forêts, aux lacs et, d'une manière générale, aux écosystèmes. Il serait donc inexact de vouloir ici opposer les impératifs écologiques aux impératifs économiques.

Il est vrai qu'en cette matière les coûts et les avantages ne sont pas uniformément répartis entre les nations. Serait-ce une raison pour limiter la coopération internationale ? Je ne le crois pas. Nous sommes appelés, au contraire, à trouver des formes de coopération qui expriment la solidarité internationale. C'est dans cet esprit que l'OCDE s'est attachée à définir et à préciser des principes directeurs sur la pollution transfrontière.

Sans méconnaître les étapes qui restent à franchir pour que cette solidarité internationale se traduise dans les faits, je crois que l'on peut être raisonnablement optimistes si l'on se souvient :

a) D'une part, que l'environnement forme un tout, indépendamment des frontières géographiques et politiques, et que sa préservation bénéficie, au moins indirectement, à tous.

b) D'autre part, que la solidarité nécessaire ne doit pas se manifester dans un seul domaine, mais dans l'ensemble des domaines d'interaction où les activités d'un pays ont des répercussions sur l'environnement dans un autre pays, de sorte que tous les pays ont vocation à participer à ces efforts et à en bénéficier.

C'est sur cette note de confiance que je voudrais clore mon intervention, en remerciant encore une fois les organisateurs de cette réunion pour leur invitation et en souhaitant que celle-ci soit le départ d'une nouvelle phase d'activités de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, au cours de laquelle elle pourra compter sur l'attention et sur le concours de l'OCDE.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

(Dr. L.A. Kaprio, Director of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe)

My colleagues and I are very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this distinguished assembly on behalf of the World Health Organization. I bring to you the warm regards and congratulations of Dr. Mahler, Director General of our Organization.

It would have been inconceivable only a decade ago for such a conference as this to have taken place. This important gathering and the decisions made reflect both the growing importance given to environmental protection by the governments of the region and an improvement in the political will towards co-operation.

The countries represented at this meeting have, to a greater or lesser extent, been undergoing a process of industrialization for many years. This process was frequently accompanied by some deterioration of the environment and for a long time this was generally accepted as "the price of progress". Growing consciousness towards the need to protect the finite resources of our planet was brought into focus at the 1972 United Nations Conference in Stockholm, since when we have seen a greatly increased momentum towards environmental protection throughout the world, especially perhaps within the ECE region.

We must however beware of over-simplification. One might sometimes think that prior to 1972 little had been accomplished, whereas in many countries of the region, very major and successful steps had already been taken to control pollution of air, water and soil with clear benefits to man's health and surroundings.

Such efforts, although often achieving dramatic local improvements, did not however succeed in conserving the over-all environment and until very recently, for example, the quality of many stretches of water, such as the coastal reaches of the Mediterranean, were continuing to deteriorate and inadequate land-use planning was prejudicing what has been aptly but non-specifically termed "the quality of life".

Now, however, progress is being made on a much broader front.

Efforts to conserve flora and fauna, to safeguard or restore ecosystems and to protect wilderness areas are of great value in their own right. It would be worthwhile doing these things even if they had no impact at all on man's health or well-being. But, many of the environmental issues now being faced do involve man, not only as the cause, but also as the "sufferer", and that is of course the special interest for WHO.

The Constitution of WHO lays down that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". In the ECE region, many of the problems affecting man's health and well-being are those of an industrialized society. Communicable diseases are no longer in society's mind as a major preoccupation, even though they were the cause of much of the misery that pervaded the countries of the region for many hundreds of years. Road traffic accidents are now of much greater significance in reducing the life span of European man than tuberculosis, while the old scourges like cholera and polio have almost disappeared from the region.

In order to successfully resolve the health issues relevant to an industrialized society, the Regional Office for Europe of WHO has, during the last decade, been placing increased emphasis on the various aspects of environmental health, such as air and water pollution control, radiation protection, food hygiene, occupational health and chemical safety. Because the effects of various environmental factors interact, it has become necessary to adopt a holistic approach which can be termed human ecology, whereby we endeavour to better understand the various physical, mental and psycho-social stresses experienced by man in relation to the environment and to his life style.

For many years, my Office has worked in close co-operation with UNDP and more recently also with UNEP in assisting Member States in the development of environmental institutions as well as carrying out large-scale projects relating to water supplies, waste disposal and environmental protection. This has brought us into contact with people from a wide range of government ministries and agencies, some of them being now members of your delegations.

Some misunderstandings have arisen in the public mind concerning the relative importance of various environmental hazards to human health. A statement from the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon - a WHO institution - has been widely misinterpreted. It was stated that "between 30 and 90 per cent of all cancers are dependant directly or indirectly on environmental factors". Whereas about 5 per cent of cancers appear to be directly due to the occupational environment, life style factors, especially smoking and diet, including alcohol, appear to be even more important than environmental pollution in relation to cancer. Such "internal pollution" is becoming increasingly important in relation to WHO's work. The heavy smoker who works in the asbestos industry has a very much greater chance of succumbing to cancer than the non-smoker employed in the same industry. It is therefore essential that we should understand the relationship between various environmental factors and their effects on human health. Throughout his evolutionary development, man has been subject to a great variety of environmental changes and he has proved to be extraordinarily resilient and adaptable, but there are many causes for concern as graphically illustrated this morning by the distinguished delegate of the United States of America. It is becoming clear that the threat to the ozone layer of the atmosphere is more serious than had been supposed only a few months ago. The effects on human health of a substantial deterioration of the ozone layer would indeed be serious if increased ultra-violet radiation resulted in a substantially higher incidence of skin cancer and the effects of prolonged sunbathing would need to be considered; thus the effects of pollution and personal life style must be jointly considered. Our lack of understanding concerning many aspects of the effects of environmental changes on human health should not be a reason for postponing the carrying out of improvements to the human environment and the control of environmental pollution. In fact, such is the rate of progress throughout the region, that it is likely that there will be considerably less gross pollution of air, water and soil by the end of the century than there is at present. Our attention will increasingly turn to more subtle forms of contamination by micro-pollutants and to the long distance transport of harmful substances in the atmosphere or in water, or by movement of goods or waste products.

The Convention which has just been approved by the Member States of ECE lays down a foundation for inter-country co-operation concerning the long distance transport of air pollutants. The health effects of the various pollutants involved, such as sulphur dioxide and particulates, are being defined in a series of criteria documents produced by WHO. A manual concerning the management of urban air pollution was recently issued by the European Office and a companion volume on industrial air pollution will be published in 1980.

The transport of pollutants by rivers is also of importance to public health and the Regional Office has for many years, for example, been involved in large-scale co-operation with several of the riparian states of the River Danube in projects concerning river water quality. In close collaboration with UNEP and UNDP, the WHO Regional Office for Europe has recently commenced preparatory activities for inter-country technical co-operation among riparian countries of the Danube with a view to safeguarding its quality, during a period when major developments are affecting its régime. Already there are signs that the concentrations of toxic micro-pollutants have increased during the last decade, with potentially harmful effects to human health.

This brings me to the burning issue of chemical safety which has been mentioned by many delegates.

Among its many activities in this field, WHO has been collaborating with Member States since 1963 in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission jointly with FAO, in the assessment of the toxicity of food additives and pesticide residues. Together with UNEP, WHO is publishing a series of criteria documents on the toxicity of industrial substances. In spite of the considerable magnitude of this work, the increasing proliferation of potentially toxic chemicals in the environment has required the Organization to develop a much more comprehensive approach. Between 200 and 1,000 new chemicals are being introduced each year and about 60,000 are at present in commercial use. A very high proportion of the world's chemical industry is within the ECE region.

The magnitude of the efforts necessary to safeguard human health from the effects of potentially toxic chemicals is enormous and international co-operation is essential. Chemical toxicity can be both complex and chronic. The effects of a carcinogen may, for example, only become evident following a latency period of over 30 years. Much remains to be understood concerning the combined effects of more than one environmental stress, whether chemical, physical or biological.

In order to be able to react effectively to this immensely serious problem, the World Health Assembly has approved the launching of an International Programme of Chemical Safety. This will involve leading institutions in many countries within the field of toxicology, who will be engaged in a programme of harmonized testing and evaluation of chemicals. It will embody substantial collaboration with other international organizations such as UNDP, UNEP, FAO and ILO. The programme will build on and utilize to the maximum possible extent, the important work carried out by such organizations as CEC, CMEA and OECD. The six regional offices of WHO have a major role in the Programme, particularly in the field of training of toxicologists, in contingency planning for and response to industrial accidents, in environmental health impact assessment and in various aspects of technical co-operation. The Regional Office for Europe has recently, for example, been co-operating with the authorities in Italy following two incidents concerning the release of toxic chemicals, at Seveso and Vincenza respectively.

Turning to more general matters, the ECE Member States must be complimented on setting up the group of Senior Advisers on Environmental Problems which has exercised an increasingly important role in focusing attention on important environmental issues. They have, I know, carried out much of the preparatory work for the present Conference.

It is clear that WHO, in order to fulfil its mandate in our industrialized region, needs to collaborate with and receive guidance from the wide range of government ministries which are concerned with the various aspects of human health and well-being. The possibility of setting up a forum comprising senior advisers of Member States in the field of environmental health has therefore been mooted. This could complement the work of the ECE Senior Advisers on Environment and hopefully provide a substantial input to their deliberations.

The World Health Assembly last year adopted the slogan of "Health for All by the Year 2000". In order to achieve the maximum level of health and well-being for all citizens in the industrialized countries, it will be necessary to reach an improved understanding of the various factors of our environment and life style which impinge on individuals, population groups and indeed on entire societies.

The present Conference has provided great encouragement to the World Health Organization in developing its co-operation with Member States in the field of environmental health and, on behalf of its Director General, I must thank you for allowing me to address you this afternoon.

MALTA
MALTE
MALJETA

(Mr. S. Borg, Acting Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations Office at Geneva)

May I, first of all express the regret of my Minister of Health and Environment, Dr. V. MORAN, who was unable to be present on this occasion due to pressing parliamentary work. He would have liked to be here to congratulate you, Your Excellency, on your election to the Presidency of this meeting. Indeed, his congratulations would also have gone to the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of this Meeting.

This High Level Meeting represents one step in a long process of co-operation in Europe - an important step, and hopefully not a final one in the field of environment. It is a significant one because it brings together, in an institutional way, the CSCE process and that of the Economic Commission for Europe. We are giving a wider and more formal scope to the two processes. Many of you have pointed this out in your statements, and therefore, Mr. Chairman permit me to limit myself to two aspects of particular interest to my country in my very brief intervention.

First, it was very fitting that it had to be in the field of environment that we registered this progress. It is fitting, because environment is an area which illustrates in a stark way the artificiality of frontiers which cause divisions between one country and another - between one bloc and another. We are acknowledging that pollution travels freely over long distances and across frontiers, and if co-operation is to mean anything at all we should ensure not to harm our neighbours as a result of our activities, and if we have done so in the past, we should do something to rectify matters.

But this logic would be greatly at fault if, having admitted the irrelevance of frontiers among European countries in this aspect of human activity, we set up frontiers between Europe and other regions. We should not lose any time to show a sense of responsibility by looking wider afield and offering co-operation to other non-European countries who may be interested or affected.

Secondly, I have already said that this is not the final step. As we sit by the Lake of Geneva, recently declared to be sick ecologically speaking, we should not forget that its waters will eventually flow into the Mediterranean. Other rivers originating in the same Alps, travel north and east. I need not belabour the point that their waters are a source of economic co-operation or conflict, wealth or distress which need careful handling in no way inferior to that of transboundary air pollution. And as an island State, we go further and say that the sealanes along which so many ships, most of them belonging to States represented here, ply their trade, are no less real than the highways and waterways which criss-cross Europe. In the ECE, in the CSCE and in other appropriate fora, we should sit down to work out practical ways of co-operation in the field of marine environment.

Before I close, I feel that we should all be thankful to the originators of the idea of a High Level Meeting on the Environment, and to those countries which, after careful consideration brought this idea to fruition. We have admired the tenacity and diplomatic skill which overcame so many difficulties. This makes us confident that initial difficulties will not inhibit us from taking further steps to accomplish the aims of the CSCE. As a country which does not produce any significant long-range transboundary air pollution we could not contribute much to the deliberations on this Convention, but we welcome the result.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE
МЕЖПАРЛАМЕНТСКАЯ СОЮЗ

(M. P.-C. Terenzio, Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire)

Je tiens à vous dire combien l'Union interparlementaire, qui travaille activement à la mise en oeuvre des accords d'Helsinki au niveau des Parlements est heureuse que vos travaux aient abouti à l'adoption d'une Convention et d'une Déclaration qui feront date dans l'histoire du rapprochement européen.

La défense de l'environnement est de toute évidence un sujet qui comporte une importante dimension parlementaire puisqu'il implique dans tous les pays de nombreuses mesures législatives ainsi qu'en témoignent les textes mêmes que vous venez d'approuver.

Les représentants des Parlements de toute l'Europe ainsi que ceux des Etats-Unis et du Canada réunis l'année dernière à Vienne pour notre troisième Conférence interparlementaire sur la coopération et la sécurité européennes étaient conscients du fait que les gouvernements s'apprêtaient à franchir une étape essentielle dans ce domaine au sein de la Commission économique pour l'Europe. C'est pourquoi ils ont décidé la convocation d'un Symposium sur l'environnement en Europe qui s'est tenu il y a trois semaines au Palais des Nations à l'invitation du Parlement suisse et c'est pourquoi le lieu, la date et le thème de ce Symposium - "La pollution de l'air et de l'eau, y compris ses mouvements transfrontières" - ont été choisis en fonction de votre réunion et après consultation avec votre Secrétaire exécutif, M. Stanovnik, qui a pris une part active à ses travaux ainsi qu'à ceux de nos trois conférences interparlementaires européennes.

Dans ses conclusions qui ont été mises à votre disposition, le Symposium interparlementaire a préconisé une série de mesures préventives et curatives et adopté une série de recommandations. J'en citerai quelques-unes parmi les principales.

Premièrement le Symposium a recommandé que nos membres prennent toutes mesures appropriées auprès de leurs parlements et gouvernements pour hâter la ratification de votre Convention sur la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière.

Deuxièmement il s'est vivement félicité des mesures prévues dans la Déclaration sur les techniques peu polluantes ou sans déchets et la réutilisation des déchets.

Troisièmement il a recommandé que les gouvernements soient encouragés à adopter une approche à plus longue vue en matière de coopération internationale sur les problèmes de la pollution des eaux, notamment dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe.

Enfin et surtout, le Symposium a recommandé aux parlements et aux gouvernements de passer en revue et, si nécessaire, de compléter, coordonner et rationaliser l'ensemble de leur législation nationale sur l'environnement en tenant compte des mesures préconisées.

Je vais donc transmettre ce mois-ci les Conclusions du Symposium, assorties des textes que vous avez adoptés, à nos membres qui, à leur tour, sont priés de les soumettre pour toute action appropriée à leurs Parlements respectifs et aux Commissions parlementaires spécialisées en matière d'environnement.

En outre ces recommandations seront portées à la connaissance de notre Conseil en avril prochain à Oslo et de la quatrième Conférence interparlementaire sur la coopération et la sécurité européennes qui se réunira en mai à Bruxelles et ne manquera pas, j'en suis certain, de les accueillir avec un vif intérêt.

Nous espérons donc que l'interaction parlementaire et gouvernementale, si nécessaire dans ce cas, produira une fois de plus des résultats fructueux.

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION METEOROLOGIQUE MONDIALE
ВСЕМИРНАЯ МЕТЕОРОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ

(Dr. D.A. Davies, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization)

I count it a great honour and privilege to address this High-level Meeting, the significance of which is clearly demonstrated not only by the level of representation but also by the high quality and if I may say so, by the evident sincerity of the pronouncements which have been made by the respective heads of delegations.

This occasion is a source of particular satisfaction to the World Meteorological Organization since, at the invitation of ECE, WMO has from the outset been concerned with the meteorological aspects of the ECE Programme on the Monitoring and Evaluation of Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants and hence in relevant aspects of the preparatory work which has led to this Conference.

The co-operation of WMO in this ECE programme is moreover based on decisions given by the highest governing bodies of WMO - namely the Congress, the Executive Committee and the WMO Regional Association for Europe comprising as it does, all the States which are members of the ECE. Thus the participation of WMO in this work is founded on a very sound and solid basis.

I will not describe at length the precise nature and scope of the input of WMO into this Programme nor the relevance of WMO activities to the future developments which will follow the signing of the Convention and the adoption of the corresponding resolution.

I would like however to recall that meteorology is the science of the atmosphere and that it is therefore appropriate for WMO to be directly concerned with all atmospheric processes and hence (in the present context) with all aspects of the transmission of atmospheric pollutants. For example the global network of stations for measuring the atmospheric pollutants set up under a WMO programme is playing and will continue to play an essential role in this field. And here I may mention that the WMO decision to establish such a network of stations was in fact taken in 1969 - that is not only before the Helsinki Agreement was signed in 1975 but even before the historic Stockholm Conference of 1972 which led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme. I venture to suggest that it is indeed fortunate that WMO had the foresight to initiate action towards the establishment of a global network of stations all measuring the background levels of atmospheric substances and parameters which may affect environmental pollution and climate. More than half of the stations operating within the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme are in fact stations developed under the aegis of the WMO programme and this number is increasing. I was very pleased to note that the distinguished delegate for Iceland in his address earlier this afternoon referred to an additional station to be established in his country under the WMO Programme.

In addition, in agreement with a proposal made by the ECE, two Meteorological Synthesizing Centres, one in Oslo for the western region and one in Moscow for the eastern region of Europe have been established with financial assistance from UNEP. The Meteorological Office in the United Kingdom also at the request of ECE, maintains close co-operation with one of the centres. Great attention has thus been given to the scientific aspects of long-range air pollution transmission and steps have been taken to achieve the research work needed to improve the applicability and reliability of mathematical transport models.

Within its over-all activities in this field WMO is also actively pursuing its special programmes in respect of the increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the possible effects of the fluorocarbons on the ozone layer in the stratosphere. The distinguished delegate for the United States of America made some very cogent remarks on both of these problems in his address this morning.

Thus the co-operation of WMO with ECE and with UNEP in all these fields is much more than a theoretical exercise. It is thanks to these co-operative efforts (and of course to the support and enthusiasm of the respective countries), that important practical measures have already been taken towards the establishment and operation of the network of stations necessary for this purpose and of the centres necessary for processing and analysing the acquired data. It is thanks also to such efforts that other important studies in this field have been made all of which will facilitate future progress.

As many previous speakers have already stressed, the approval by this High-level Meeting of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and of the corresponding resolution, opens the road to fruitful and mutually beneficial developments to all countries concerned and this augurs well for the future. I suggest however that the full benefits will only be realised if due attention is given to the associated scientific studies and activities and it is in this field that WMO will be able to play - or perhaps I should say, to continue to play an important role.

In conclusion may I give every assurance that the events of this Conference and their relevance to WMO affairs will be fully reported to the appropriate governing bodies of WMO and I have no doubt that the continued support and co-operation of WMO may be fully counted upon. May I also extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Stanovnik and his colleagues for the full and fruitful collaboration which WMO has enjoyed with them at all times in this work. May I also extend an expression of appreciation to Dr. Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP for the excellent spirit of co-operation which prevails between our two organizations.

HOLY SEE

SAINT-SIEGE

СВЯТЫЙ ПРЕСТОЛ

(M. A. Berger, Directeur de l'Institut d'astronomie et de géophysique de l'Université catholique de Louvain, qui a parlé au nom du Saint-Siège)

On pourrait se demander quelle est la compétence du Saint-Siège pour intervenir en ce débat sur un thème qui semble sortir de son domaine comme celui de la pollution atmosphérique transfrontière à longue distance. Il est certain que l'Etat de la Cité du Vatican, même si son étendue est restreinte, connaît les problèmes de l'environnement et de la pollution atmosphérique et se soucie de trouver, en collaboration avec d'autres institutions, les moyens d'assurer un écosystème viable; ceci avec une attention particulière pour la conservation et la sauvegarde d'un patrimoine artistique et culturel qui constitue un héritage commun et un appel religieux pour toute l'humanité.

En outre, beaucoup d'institutions et de savants catholiques, animés par une foi qui respecte l'oeuvre de Dieu dans la création, ont poussé leurs recherches afin d'assurer à l'homme un milieu ambiant qui favorise sa vie et son développement et qui, surtout, ne lui soit pas hostile.

Toutefois, ce n'est ni sur les programmes du Vatican, ni sur la relation entre foi et apport technique des catholiques, qu'est axé l'intérêt du Saint-Siège pour cette réunion, mais plutôt sur quelques principes éthiques qui la justifient et devront guider notre recherche future.

L'importance des spécialistes en ce domaine est indéniable et ils apportent une contribution irremplaçable à l'entreprise globale de l'épanouissement et de la défense de l'homme. Mais il est nécessaire que leur oeuvre ne soit pas cantonnée dans un secteur isolé de la vie; elle doit être insérée dans une vue d'ensemble de l'humanité.

L'homme en effet est appelé à défendre l'environnement et à y apporter les solutions nécessaires avant tout pour son épanouissement personnel et social et pour répondre à ses désirs profonds de paix, de contemplation et d'amour. Une liaison étroite existe entre l'homme et son milieu puisqu'il participe du monde physique, végétal et animal. L'homme possède aujourd'hui, comme jamais dans son histoire, des capacités immenses de transformation de la terre et même des structures du milieu atmosphérique. La liberté d'exercer ces capacités ne peut pas être despotique, mais doit être guidée par la conviction que l'homme est le point de convergence des intérêts de l'écologie et le critère de choix des méthodes d'exploitation des richesses de la nature. Cette nature d'ailleurs nous reporte à un ordre établi et nous rappelle les lois éternelles de l'être - si nous ne savons pas les respecter, nous devons nous attendre à éprouver un phénomène de rétorsion contre le bien-être le plus élémentaire de l'humanité. Dieu a donné à l'homme l'ordre de "soumettre la terre"; c'est-à-dire de la parfaire, de l'ennoblir par son travail et sa présence et non de la rendre inhabitable. Elle doit au contraire devenir une demeure qui favorise son développement intégral, sa vie physique ainsi que sa vie spirituelle. Une telle conception humaniste sera un critère et une route qui guidera une planification rationnelle et honnête des multiples progrès afin que la Terre devienne plus humaine à tous points de vue. Si l'immobilisme nous paraît condamnable, il faut tout aussi bien refuser une exploitation effrénée de la matière méconnaissant les lois de la nature et certaines aspirations de l'esprit humain qui témoignent d'une réalité plus profonde que la matière.

Une autre réflexion que suscite en nous la constatation de la pollution trans-frontière, c'est que les ressources naturelles sont un bien commun de toute l'humanité. Aucun peuple ne peut les gaspiller ou les exploiter sans tenir compte des intérêts des autres, surtout des plus démunis, et de ceux des générations futures : l'atmosphère n'est pas res nullius, mais vraiment res omnium. Ce principe de la destination universelle des biens - et donc aussi de l'environnement - est une des pierres de base de la doctrine sociale de l'Eglise : la terre est donnée aux hommes en commun et la propriété des ressources matérielles et technologiques ne doit pas entraver, mais faciliter le bien de tous.

L'humanité constitue une seule famille qui doit partager ensemble soucis et joies. Si un peuple peut disposer de ses ressources, il ne peut pas oublier son devoir de solidarité envers les autres. Cela semble d'autant plus vrai pour l'environnement atmosphérique qui ne connaît pas de frontières et est un bien nécessaire à tous. Cette interdépendance se manifeste clairement dans le cas d'un risque - ou d'une catastrophe - que personne ne veut accepter et encore moins se voir imposer à son insu et sans en être responsable. On fait souvent remarquer que les différentes responsabilités sont partagées et qu'elles ne sont pas même déterminables avec précision. Une conscience toutefois qui a le souci du bien commun fera éviter le risque d'être une cause - même partielle - d'une détérioration et d'un appauvrissement de l'environnement humain.

La collaboration pourra aussi être poussée jusqu'à réagir et lutter avec de nouvelles méthodes contre une pollution menaçant un pays ou une région. L'oeuvre ne se présente pas comme facile. Mais une nouvelle mentalité plus éveillée aux risques d'un progrès matériel laissé à son seul dynamisme et plus convaincue de la solidarité qui lie les hommes pour le meilleur et pour le pire fera trouver les mesures techniques indispensables. Notre souci pour l'environnement ne sera donc pas seulement motivé par la crainte pour notre avenir, mais par un projet de solidarité d'un nouvel ordre humain international.

Le Saint-Siège a accepté de participer à cette Réunion à haut niveau et il signera la Convention parce qu'il y voit un symbole d'une volonté de coopération plus vaste, un pas vers un monde plus solidaire où les frontières nationales sont des moyens pour servir les peuples et non des barrières pour les dresser les uns contre les autres ou permettre à chacun d'eux de se refermer sur ses propres intérêts.

Ma délégation est convaincue que la diffusion de ces principes et leur enracinement dans le coeur de chaque homme pourront être le levain qui assurera à l'humanité un mode d'action plus respectueux pour la nature et plus profitable pour les générations futures. Si le Saint-Siège ne peut faire que bien peu pour l'environnement sous son aspect technique étant donné la limitation de ses ressources et l'exiguïté du territoire sur lequel il est souverain, il est conscient qu'il est de son devoir de poursuivre dans son action d'éducation des consciences et il est sûr de contribuer ainsi largement à la construction d'un monde plus accueillant pour l'homme.

Le Pape Jean Paul II, reprenant un thème plusieurs fois traité par Paul VI, a consacré une part considérable de sa première Lettre Encyclique aux menaces qui pèsent sur l'homme du fait de ce qu'il fabrique lui-même et il le rappelle aux exigences objectives d'ordre moral, de justice et d'amour social. Il propose les principes qui doivent empêcher l'homme de perdre le fil conducteur de sa domination sur le monde des choses (Enc. Redemptor hominis No 15-16). Dans son discours lors de sa visite au Siège des Nations Unies à New York, le Pape a souligné le droit à la paix et à la justice ainsi que le devoir pour tous du respect des autres et de la solidarité. Dans son discours au Secrétariat de l'ONU, il a souhaité que tous les pays fassent "l'expérience du fait qu'il n'y a qu'un seul monde et que ce monde est la maison de tous les hommes".

ANNEX V

TEXTS OF MESSAGES RECEIVED DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

The texts of the messages received during the High-level Meeting within the framework of the ECE on the Protection of the Environment are reproduced as follows:

Mr. Leonid BREZHNEV	General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet
Mr. György LAÁZSAR	Prime Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic
Mr. Edward GIEREK	First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party
Mr. Todor ZHIVKOV	President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria
Mr. E. HONECKER	General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic

ANNEXE V

TEXTES DES MESSAGES RECUS PENDANT LA REUNION A HAUT NIVEAU

Les textes des messages reçus pendant la Réunion à haut niveau, dans le cadre de la CEE, sur la protection de l'environnement, sont reproduits comme suit :

- M. Leonid BREJNEV, Secrétaire général du Comité central
du Parti communiste de l'Union soviétique et
Président du Présidium du Soviet suprême de l'URSS
- M. Gyorgy LAAZAAR, Premier Ministre de la République populaire hongroise
- M. Edouard GIEREK, Premier Secrétaire du Comité central
du Parti ouvrier unifié polonais
- M. Todor JIVKOV, Président du Conseil d'Etat de la
République populaire de Bulgarie
- M. E. HONECKER, Secrétaire général du Comité central du
Parti socialiste unifié allemand et
Président du Conseil d'Etat de la
République démocratique allemande

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ V

ТЕКСТЫ ПОСЛАНИЙ, ПОЛУЧЕННЫХ В ХОДЕ СОВЕЩАНИЯ НА ВЫСОКОМ УРОВНЕ

Тексты посланий, полученных в ходе Совещания на высоком уровне в рамках ЕЭК по охране окружающей среды, были зачитаны в следующем порядке:

- Г-н Леонид БРЕЖНЕВ, Генеральный секретарь Центрального Комитета КПСС,
Председатель Президиума Верховного Совета СССР
- Г-н Дерь ЛАЗАР, Премьер-министр Венгерской Народной Республики
- Г-н Эдвард ГЕРЕК, Первый секретарь Центрального Комитета Польской Объединенной Рабочей Партии
- Г-н Тодор ЖИВКОВ, Председатель Государственного Совета Болгарской Народной Республики
- Г-н Е. ХОНЕКЕР, Генеральный секретарь Центрального Комитета Социалистической Единой Партии Германии,
Председатель Государственного Совета Германской Демократической Республики

MESSAGE FROM MR. LEONID BREZHNEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR

I extend my cordial greetings to the participants in the All-European High-level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment. I believe that this representative meeting, which is being held in order to develop the ideas embodied in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, will constitute an important step forward in strengthening mutual understanding and the further development of international co-operation, for the benefit of peoples and in the interests of peace on the European continent and throughout the world.

The convening of this Meeting has been favoured by a number of auspicious trends in international political life. The principles of peaceful coexistence are becoming increasingly firmly entrenched in the practice of international relations. As a result of the successful conclusion of the Helsinki Conference, conditions have been created for strengthening peace and developing co-operation. The signing of the SALT-II Treaty was an event of great importance. The Soviet Union, in agreement with other socialist States, has recently put forward important new initiatives, dictated by its desire to consolidate security in Europe.

The task facing the All-European Meeting, that of intensifying and developing co-operation in environmental protection and thus furthering improvements in the quality of life, the protection of health and a more rational use of natural resources, is clear to us all and close to our hearts.

We are not only carrying out a broad programme to protect nature and make rational use of nature's wealth in our own country, but also co-operating actively with other countries in environmental protection, and we are ready to develop such co-operation even further, inter alia, within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, under whose auspices this Meeting has been convened. The Soviet Union intends to continue in the future to promote in every possible way efforts to expand mutually beneficial co-operation in the environmental field among the countries of Europe, the United States of America and Canada.

May I wish the participants in the Meeting success in their work and in adopting important decisions to protect and improve the environment for the benefit of all peoples.

MESSAGE DE M. LEONIDE BREJNEV, SECRETAIRE GENERAL DU COMITE CENTRAL
DU PARTI COMMUNISTE DE L'UNION SOVIETIQUE ET PRESIDENT DU PRESIDUM
DU SOVIET SUPREME DE L'URSS

J'adresse mes vœux les plus cordiaux aux participants à la Réunion européenne de haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement. Je pense que cette réunion représentative, qui se situe dans le droit fil des idéaux consacrés par l'Acte final de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, est un pas important pour le renforcement de la compréhension mutuelle et le développement de la coopération internationale pour le bien des peuples, dans l'intérêt de la paix sur le continent européen et dans le monde entier.

L'organisation de la présente réunion a été favorisée par toute une série de tendances favorables dans la vie politique internationale. Les principes de la coexistence pacifique pénètrent de plus en plus solidement dans la pratique des relations internationales. Le succès de la Conférence d'Helsinki a créé les conditions du renforcement de la paix et du développement de la coopération. La signature du Traité SALT II a constitué un événement d'une importance considérable. D'accord avec d'autres Etats socialistes, l'Union soviétique a pris récemment une nouvelle initiative importante dictée par le souci de renforcer la sécurité en Europe. Nous apprécions et nous comprenons toute l'importance de la tâche assignée à votre réunion européenne, qui est d'approfondir et de développer la coopération pour la protection de l'environnement et de contribuer ainsi à améliorer la vie des hommes, à protéger leur santé et à utiliser plus rationnellement les ressources naturelles.

Tout en mettant en oeuvre dans notre pays un vaste programme pour la protection de la nature et l'utilisation rationnelle de ses ressources, nous coopérons activement et nous sommes prêts à développer encore cette coopération avec d'autres pays dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement, notamment dans le cadre de la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe, sous l'égide de laquelle se tient votre réunion.

L'Union soviétique continuera de s'associer aux efforts déployés pour développer une coopération mutuellement avantageuse entre les pays européens, les Etats-Unis et le Canada en ce qui concerne la protection de l'environnement.

Je souhaite aux participants à la Réunion le plein succès de leurs travaux et l'adoption de décisions importantes pour la protection et l'amélioration de l'environnement dans l'intérêt de tous les peuples.

УЧАСТНИКАМ ОБЩЕЕВРОПЕЙСКОГО СОВЕЩАНИЯ
НА ВЫСОКОМ УРОВНЕ ПО СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВУ В
ОБЛАСТИ ОХРАНЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ

Сердечно приветствую участников Общеευропейского совещания на высоком уровне по сотрудничеству в области охраны окружающей среды. Думаю, что эта представительная встреча, проводимая в развитие идей Заключительного акта Совещания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе, является важным шагом в деле укрепления взаимопонимания и дальнейшего развития международного сотрудничества на благо народов, в интересах мира на Европейском континенте и во всем мире.

Созилу настоящего Совещания способствовал ряд благоприятных тенденций в международной политической жизни. В практику международных отношений все более прочно входят принципы мирного сосуществования. В результате успешного завершения Совещания в Хельсинки созданы условия для упрочения мира и развития сотрудничества. Событиям большой важности явилось подписание Договора об ОСВ-2. Советский Союз по согласованию с другими социалистическими государствами выступил недавно с новыми важными инициативами, продиктованными заботой об укреплении безопасности в Европе.

Всем нам близка и понятна стоящая перед Общеευропейским совещанием задача углублять и развивать сотрудничество по охране окружающей среды и тем самым содействовать улучшению жизни людей и сохранению их здоровья, более рациональному использованию природных ресурсов.

Мы не только осуществляем широкую программу по охране природы и рациональному использованию ее богатств у себя в стране, но активно сотрудничаем и готовы развивать и дальше сотрудничество с другими странами в деле охраны окружающей среды, в том числе и в рамках Европейской экономической комиссии ООН, под эгидой которой создано это Совещание. Советский Союз намерен и в будущем всемерно содействовать усилению по расширению взаимовыгодного сотрудничества европейских стран, США и Канады в области окружающей среды.

Разрешите пожелать участникам Совещания успешной работы и принятия важных решений по охране и улучшению окружающей среды на благо всех народов.

Л. БРЕЖНЕВ

MESSAGE FROM MR. CYORGY LAAZAAR, PRIME MINISTER OF THE
HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

On behalf of the Government and the people of Hungary, I have the honour of addressing all the participants in the High-level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment, the representatives responsible for the protection of environment in the countries of the ECE region.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic has from the very beginning given full support to the convening of all-European high-level meetings in order to solve the most urgent problems in the fields of protection of the environment, development of transport, and energy through international co-operation as proposed by Leonid Brezhnev, Head of State of the USSR, in conformity with the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act. I express satisfaction that the proposal of great significance concerning the environment has been realized through the present Meeting as the result of joint efforts of the ECE member countries.

To protect the environment is in the interest of all rational-minded and people of goodwill, irrespective of existing ideological differences. I am convinced this Meeting will make a real contribution to the general desire of protecting the human environment and providing a better quality of life in this world.

Your Meeting should be considered as one of the fora of the follow-up to and broadening of the beneficial spirit of Helsinki and thus of the improvement of fruitful multilateral co-operation.

The Hungarian Government upholds the view that this High-level Meeting is one of the outstanding results of the practical implementation of the principles and understandings of the Final Act. It is a middle stepping-stone in the course of the long-range implementation of the Helsinki decisions, and guarantees continuity in the measures aimed at broadening the process of détente.

Hungarian public opinion is looking forward with great expectations to the outcome of the High-level Meeting, since the protection of the human environment and the prevention of environmental damage are not only an integral part of national economy development, but they are in the interests also of society as a whole.

I extend, on behalf of the Hungarian Government, all my best wishes for the success of your Meeting, and wish great success and good health to the participants in their present and future work, to all of you who have made a great many endeavours so far for the resolving of the complex problems of the environment at national and international levels in our region.

MESSAGE DE M. GYORGY LAAZAAR, PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE HONGROISE

Au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple de la Hongrie, j'ai l'honneur de m'adresser à tous les participants à la Réunion de haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement, représentants responsables de la protection de l'environnement dans les pays de la région de la CEE.

Le Gouvernement de la République populaire hongroise a tout de suite apporté son plein appui à Leonide Brejnev, Chef de l'Etat soviétique, lorsqu'il a proposé que soient organisées, conformément à l'esprit de l'Acte final d'Helsinki, des réunions à haut niveau à l'échelle européenne en vue de résoudre, par la coopération internationale, les problèmes les plus urgents qui se posent dans les domaines de la protection de l'environnement, du développement des transports et de l'énergie. Je me réjouis que les pays membres de la CEE aient donné suite à cette importante proposition en ce qui concerne l'environnement, en conjuguant leurs efforts pour organiser la présente Réunion.

Protéger l'environnement est de l'intérêt de tous les hommes raisonnables et de bonne volonté, quelles que soient leurs divergences idéologiques. La présente Réunion apportera, j'en suis sûr, une contribution de poids au désir général de protéger l'environnement et d'améliorer la qualité de la vie dans ce monde.

Il convient de voir dans votre réunion un prolongement et une extension de l'esprit bénéfique d'Helsinki et donc une étape de plus vers une coopération multilatérale fructueuse.

Pour le Gouvernement hongrois, cette Réunion à haut niveau est un remarquable résultat de l'application pratique des principes et des clauses de l'Acte final. Elle servira de tremplin à la mise en œuvre à long terme des décisions d'Helsinki et garantit une continuité d'efforts tendant à élargir le processus de la détente.

L'opinion publique hongroise place de grands espoirs dans les travaux de la Réunion à haut niveau car, si elles font partie intégrante du développement économique national, la protection de l'environnement et la prévention de sa dégradation servent aussi l'intérêt de la société tout entière.

Au nom du Gouvernement hongrois, je forme les meilleurs vœux de succès pour votre Réunion et vous souhaite à tous - qui avez déjà accompli beaucoup d'efforts pour résoudre dans votre région les problèmes complexes de l'environnement aux niveaux national et international - de réussir dans votre entreprise et de jouir de la santé nécessaire pour mener à bien vos travaux actuels et vos tâches futures.

ПОСЛАНИЕ Г-НА ГЕОРГИЯ ЛАЗАРА, ПРЕМЬЕР-МИНИСТРА ВЕНГЕРСКОЙ
НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ, СОВЕЩАНИЮ НА ВЫСОКОМ УРОВНЕ В РАМКАХ ЕЭК
ПО ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ

ЖЕНЕВА, 13-16 НОЯБРЯ 1979 ГОДА

От имени правительства и народа Венгрии я имею честь обратиться ко всем участникам Совещания на высоком уровне по охране окружающей среды, лицам, ответственным за охрану окружающей среды в странах региона ЕЭК.

Правительство Венгерской Народной Республики с самого начала оказывало всемерную поддержку созыву общеевропейского совещания на высоком уровне в целях решения самых насущных проблем в области охраны окружающей среды, развития транспорта и энергетики путем развития международного сотрудничества, как это было предложено Леонидом Ильичем Брежневым, главой правительства СССР, в духе Заключительного акта Совещания в Хельсинки. Я удовлетворен тем, что предложение огромного значения, касающееся охраны окружающей среды, было претворено в жизнь посредством созыва настоящего Совещания в результате совместных усилий стран-членов ЕЭК.

В интересах всех здравомыслящих людей и людей доброй воли, независимо от идеологических различий, охранять окружающую среду. Я уверен, что это Совещание внесет реальный вклад в общее дело защиты окружающей человека среды и обеспечения лучшего качества жизни на земле.

Ваше Совещание следует считать одним из форумов, созданным в развитие Совещания в Хельсинки и продолжающим и расширяющим принципы, заложенные в Хельсинки, и таким образом внести вклад в улучшение плодотворного многостороннего сотрудничества.

Правительство Венгрии поддерживает мнение, что это Совещание на высоком уровне является одним из выдающихся результатов практического претворения в жизнь принципов и договоренностей Заключительного акта. Оно является промежуточным звеном в цепи долгосрочного выполнения решений Совещания в Хельсинки и гарантирует последовательность мер, направленных на углубление процесса разрядки.

Общественность Венгрии возлагает большие надежды на результаты Совещания на высоком уровне, поскольку охрана окружающей человека среды и предотвращение нанесения ущерба окружающей среде являются не только составной частью развития национальной экономики, но и в интересах всего общества в целом.

От имени правительства Венгрии я желаю успехов в работе Совещания и желаю больших успехов и хорошего здоровья всем его участникам в их настоящей и будущей работе, всем вам, внесшим вклад в решение сложных проблем, касающихся окружающей среды, на национальном и международном уровнях в нашем регионе.

MESSAGE FROM MR. EDWARD GIEREK, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY

On behalf of the highest authorities of the Polish People's Republic, may I convey best wishes for fruitful talks to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all the participants in this important High-level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment.

Environmental protection is today one of the major issues of the modern world. The effective solution of this problem requires broad international understanding and co-operation, since only international co-operation combined with the efforts being undertaken by individual countries can bring about the effective protection of man's natural environment. It is for this reason that the results of the Geneva Meeting are of such great importance.

Problems of environmental protection were given due importance in Poland long ago, and this is reflected in the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic and in the practical activities of State authorities, social organizations and citizens. May I assure you that we spare no effort to attain steady progress in this area.

I wish to recall with satisfaction the fact that it was in Warsaw, from the rostrum of the Seventh Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party, that the proposal was made by Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, to convene all-European meetings on the most vital issues for Europe, including one on protection of the environment. Poland has spared no effort in promoting the realization of this idea. We welcome the fact that this initiative has been taken up by the Economic Commission for Europe. We are glad that the arduous preparations for this Meeting have been successfully completed. We view it as an important contribution to the construction of the infrastructure of peace in Europe and throughout the world, to the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and to the strengthening of détente, mutual understanding and friendly co-operation among nations.

The increasingly widespread movement for the protection of the environment stems from the same humanitarian considerations that have inspired peoples for years to struggle for the solution of the crucial problems of our times - the consolidation of peace and the cessation of the arms race. These issues are closely interrelated and interdependent; they are matters for which we bear common responsibility. I am convinced that the deliberations of this Meeting will be animated by a spirit of constructive action, awareness of the importance of the problem and consciousness of the significance of the task before us.

MESSAGE DE M. EDWARD GIEREK, PREMIER SECRETAIRE DU COMITE CENTRAL
DU PARTI OUVRIER UNIFIE DE LA POLOGNE

Au nom des plus hautes autorités de la République populaire de Pologne, permettez-moi de vous adresser, Monsieur le Président, ainsi qu'à tous les participants à cette importante conférence qu'est la Réunion à haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement, nos meilleurs vœux de succès pour vos travaux.

La protection de l'environnement fait aujourd'hui partie des grands problèmes du monde contemporain. C'est un problème dont la solution exige une vaste concertation et une coopération internationales, car seule une coopération internationale associée aux efforts nationaux des pays permettra de prendre des mesures efficaces. C'est pourquoi les travaux de la Réunion de Genève présentent une telle importance.

Le souci de protéger l'environnement existe de longue date en Pologne, où il trouve son expression dans la Constitution du pays et dans l'action concrète des pouvoirs publics, des organisations sociales et des citoyens. Je puis vous donner l'assurance que la Pologne met tout en oeuvre pour progresser constamment dans ce domaine.

J'ai le plaisir de rappeler que c'est précisément à Varsovie, à la tribune du septième Congrès du Parti ouvrier unifié de la Pologne, que M. Leonide Brejnev, Président du Présidium du Soviet suprême de l'URSS et Secrétaire général du Comité central du Parti communiste de l'Union soviétique, a proposé que soient organisées des réunions européennes sur les grands problèmes de l'Europe, et notamment sur la protection de l'environnement. La Pologne n'a ménagé aucun effort pour qu'il soit donné suite à cette proposition et se réjouit que la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe l'ait adoptée. Nous sommes heureux que la préparation minutieuse de cette réunion ait été menée à bonne fin. Nous y voyons une contribution importante à la construction d'une infrastructure de paix en Europe et dans le monde entier, à la mise en oeuvre des dispositions de l'Acte final de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe et au renforcement de la détente, de la compréhension mutuelle et de la coopération amicale entre les peuples.

Le mouvement sans cesse plus vaste en faveur de la protection de l'environnement trouve ses origines dans les motifs humanitaires qui incitent de longue date les peuples à lutter pour que soit trouvée une solution au problème le plus grave de notre temps - le renforcement de la paix et la cessation de la course aux armements. Ce sont deux questions étroitement liées et interdépendantes, à l'égard desquelles nous avons une responsabilité commune.

Je suis sûr qu'un esprit constructif, la conscience de l'importance du problème et la certitude d'accomplir une grande mission inspireront les séances de cette réunion.

От имени верховных властей Польской Народной Республики разрешите передать Вам, господин Председатель, и всем участникам столь важного собрания, каким является Сопение на высоком уровне по вопросам охраны окружающей среды, пожелания плодотворной работы.

Охрана окружающей человека среды принадлежит в настоящее время к ведущим проблемам современного мира. Ее действительное решение требует широкой международной договоренности и сотрудничества, так как только международное сотрудничество в соединении с усилиями, которые предпринимаются соответствующими странами, является гарантией эффективной охраны окружающей человека среды. Поэтому результаты Женев-ского совещания имеют столь важное значение.

В Польше проблемы охраны окружающей среды уже давно получили должный ранг, что нашло свое отражение в Конституции ПНР и в практической деятельности государст-венных властей, общественных организаций и граждан. Разрешите заверить, что мы не щадим усилий для достижения постоянного прогресса в этой области.

С удовлетворением хочу напомнить, что именно в Варшаве, на трибуне седьмого съезда Польской объединенной рабочей партии, Генеральный секретарь ЦК КПСС, Пред-седатель Президиума Верховного Совета СССР Леонид Ильич Брежнев выступил с предложением созыва общеевропейских совещаний по ключевым для Европы вопросам, в том числе и по охране окружающей среды. Польша не щадит усилий в пользу прет-ворения в жизнь этой инициативы. С одобрением мы встречаем ее принятие Европей-ской экономической комиссией ООН. Нас радует, что кропотливая подготовка этого Совещания завершилась успешно. Мы усматриваем в этом важный вклад в дело построе-ния инфраструктуры мира в Европе и во всем мире, в реализацию положений Заклю-чительного акта Совещания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе, в упрочение разрядки, взаимопонимания и дружественного сотрудничества народов.

Получающее все более широкое распространение движение в пользу окружающей среды берет свое начало в тех самых гуманных мотивировках, которые уже много лет вдохновляют народы на борьбу за решение наиболее серьезной проблемы нашего време-ни - упрочение мира и приостановление гонки вооружений. Эти вопросы тесным обра-зом переплетаются друг с другом и взаимообуславливаются, они являются вопросами нашей совместной ответственности. Я убежден, что заседания вашего Совещания будет вдохновлять атмосфера конструктивной деятельности, сознание значения проблемы и осознание значительности выполняемой миссии.

MESSAGE FROM MR. TODOR ZHIVKOV, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ECE ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
GENEVA, 13-16 NOVEMBER 1979

On behalf of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and my own behalf, I should like to convey cordial greetings and wish successful work to the first high level forum on one of the most immediate global problems of our time - the protection of the environment and the establishment of ecological balance on the planet.

The High Level Meeting within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe on the Protection of the Environment constitutes further evidence of the positive changes that have taken place in the world in recent years and, of the principles of peaceful co-existence among States which are gaining ground in international life. This Meeting is a contribution to the common endeavour to broaden the possibilities for collective settlement of global problems which are directly relevant to the vital interests of mankind.

This forum, a remarkable manifestation of multilateral co-operation on the continent in the spirit of the Final Act of Helsinki, has been made possible by the initiative of Leonid Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the goodwill and sincere desire for co-operation of all participating States.

May I express the belief that the documents to be adopted at the Meeting will be a convincing expression of the concern for the health and well-being of present and future generations and will lay solid foundations for the application and rational utilization of scientific and technical achievements in the protection of the environment. The resolutions of the Meeting will at the same time be a contribution to efforts to intensify the process of détente, to strengthen mutual trust among nations and, successfully to implement other useful initiatives for European multilateral co-operation. It is only in conditions of lasting peace and détente, both political and military, that tangible and productive co-operation in the protection of the environment and ensuring harmony in the relationship between society and nature can be achieved.

I wish to assure you that the People's Republic of Bulgaria will further develop co-operation with all States and will make its contribution to the implementation of the decisions of the High-level Meeting on the Protection of the Environment.

MESSAGE DE M. TODOR JIVKOV, PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL D'ETAT
DE LA REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE BULGARIE

Au nom du Conseil d'Etat de la République populaire de Bulgarie et en mon nom personnel, je vous adresse mes cordiales salutations et mes vœux de succès pour cette première réunion de haut niveau consacrée à l'un des problèmes les plus urgents de notre temps - la protection de l'environnement et le maintien de l'équilibre écologique de la planète.

Cette Réunion sur la protection de l'environnement, organisée dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, est une nouvelle preuve des changements positifs survenus dans le monde ces dernières années, et de la concrétisation, dans les relations internationales, des principes de la coexistence pacifique entre Etats. Elle apporte une contribution à l'effort général pour élargir les possibilités de règlement collectif des problèmes mondiaux qui touchent aux intérêts vitaux de l'humanité tout entière.

Remarquable expression d'une coopération multilatérale européenne dans l'esprit de l'Acte final d'Helsinki, cette réunion - dont l'initiative revient à Leonide Brejnev, Président du Présidium du Soviet suprême de l'URSS - a également été rendue possible grâce à la bonne volonté et au désir sincère de coopérer de tous les Etats participants.

Je suis convaincu que les documents qui seront adoptés à cette réunion refléteront la ferme volonté de préserver la santé et d'assurer le bien-être des générations présentes et à venir et qu'ils jetteront des bases solides pour l'application rationnelle des progrès scientifiques et techniques à la protection de l'environnement. Les résolutions prises contribueront en même temps à approfondir le processus de la détente, à renforcer la confiance mutuelle entre les nations et à mener à bien d'autres initiatives utiles en matière de coopération européenne multilatérale. Une paix durable et une détente à la fois politique et militaire sont en effet le prélude indispensable à une coopération véritable et fructueuse pour la protection de l'environnement et l'établissement de rapports harmonieux entre la société et la nature.

Je puis vous donner l'assurance que la République populaire de Bulgarie resserrera encore sa coopération avec tous les Etats et qu'elle apportera sa contribution à la mise en oeuvre des décisions de la Réunion à haut niveau sur la protection de l'environnement.

ПОСЛАНИЕ Г-НА ТОДОРА ЖИВКОВА, ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО СОВЕТА
НАРОДНОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БОЛГАРИИ СОВЕЩАНИЮ НА ВЫСОКОМ УРОВНЕ В РАМКАХ
ЕЭК ПО ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ, ЖЕНЕВА, 13-16 НОЯБРЯ 1979 ГОДА

От имени Государственного Совета Народной Республики Болгарии и меня лично я хотел бы сердечно приветствовать и пожелать успешной работы первому форуму на высоком уровне, посвященному самой актуальной глобальной проблеме нашего времени - защите окружающей среды и созданию экологического равновесия на нашей планете.

Совещание на высоком уровне в рамках Европейской экономической комиссии Организации Объединенных Наций по защите окружающей среды представляет собой новые доказательства позитивных изменений, происшедших в мире в последние годы, принципов мирного сосуществования государств, которые находят все большее признание в международной жизни. Это Совещание является вкладом в совместные усилия, направленные на расширение возможностей коллективного урегулирования международных проблем, которые имеют прямое отношение к жизненным интересам человечества.

Этот форум, который является замечательной манифестацией многостороннего сотрудничества на континенте в духе Заключительного акта Совещания в Хельсинки, стал возможным благодаря инициативе Председателя Президиума Верховного Совета СССР Леонида Брежнева и доброй воле всех стран-участниц, стремящихся к сотрудничеству.

Я позволю себе выразить убеждение в том, что документы, которые будут приняты на этом Совещании, станут убедительным проявлением заботы о здоровье и процветании современного и будущего поколений и заложат твердый фундамент для применения и рационального использования научных и технических достижений в деле охраны окружающей среды. Резолюции этого Совещания также явятся вкладом в процесс углубления разрядки, укрепления взаимного доверия между народами, успешного осуществления других полезных инициатив, направленных на развитие многостороннего сотрудничества в Европе. Только в условиях прочного мира, в условиях разрядки как политической, так и военной может быть достигнуто реальное и плодотворное сотрудничество в деле защиты окружающей среды и установления гармоничных взаимоотношений между обществом и природой.

Я хочу выразить уверенность в том, что Народная Республика Болгария и в дальнейшем будет развивать сотрудничество со всеми государствами и внесет свой вклад в выполнение решений Совещания на высоком уровне по охране окружающей среды.

MESSAGE FROM MR. E. HONECKER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
OF STATE OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

On behalf of the Council of State and the people of the German Democratic Republic I convey best wishes to all participants in the All-European Congress on the Environment.

The German Democratic Republic supports the development of international co-operation for the solution of pressing problems in the field of environmental protection and all efforts aimed at the protection of the human environment and the rational use of natural resources. The All-European Congress on the Environment constitutes a further important step towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

It is essential in our age that the global problems affecting the life of each people and the entire system of international relations should be solved by joint efforts.

As life convincingly proves mutual co-operation can bear fruit only in peace. The German Democratic Republic therefore firmly advocates international détente and realistic measures aimed at halting the arms race and achieving disarmament.

The most recent peace initiative of the USSR is convincing proof of a genuine desire for peace. The peoples expect a positive response to these important and extensive proposals for disarmament and peace. Effective disarmament could also release considerable resources for the solution of urgent problems in the field of environmental protection.

The German Democratic Republic is convinced that the All-European Congress on the Environment will make a significant contribution to the normalization of international life.

I wish the Meeting much success.

MESSAGE DE M. E. HONECKER, SECRETAIRE GENERAL
DU COMITE CENTRAL DU PARTI SOCIALISTE UNIFIE
ET PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL D'ETAT
DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE

Au nom du Conseil d'Etat et du peuple de la République démocratique allemande, j'adresse mes meilleurs vœux à tous les participants à la Réunion européenne sur l'environnement.

La République démocratique allemande encourage le développement de la coopération internationale pour régler les problèmes urgents qui se posent dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement, et soutient tous les efforts visant à protéger l'environnement et à assurer une utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles. La Réunion européenne sur l'environnement marque une nouvelle étape importante dans la mise en oeuvre des recommandations formulées dans l'Acte final de la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe.

Notre époque nous commande de régler par la concertation les problèmes mondiaux qui ont des répercussions sur la vie de chaque peuple et sur tout le système des relations internationales.

L'expérience montre clairement qu'une coopération mutuelle ne peut être profitable que dans la paix. C'est pourquoi la République démocratique allemande est un partisan convaincu de la détente internationale et de mesures réalistes visant à mettre un terme à la course aux armements et à parvenir au désarmement.

La dernière initiative de l'URSS en faveur de la paix prouve un sincère désir de paix. Les peuples s'attendent à ce que ces importantes et vastes propositions de désarmement et pour la paix rencontrent un accueil positif. Un désarmement effectif pourrait en outre libérer des ressources considérables pour la solution des problèmes urgents qui se posent dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement.

La République démocratique allemande est convaincue que la Réunion européenne sur l'environnement, apportera une contribution importante à la normalisation de la vie internationale.

Je forme les meilleurs vœux de succès pour votre Réunion.

ПОСЛАНИЕ Г-НА Е. ХОНЕККЕРА, ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОГО СЕКРЕТАРЯ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОГО
КОМИТЕТА СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ЕДИНОЙ ПАРТИИ ГЕРМАНИИ И ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЯ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО СОВЕТА ГЕРМАНСКОЙ ДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

От имени Государственного Совета и народа Германской Демократической Республики я передаю наилучшие пожелания всем участникам Общеввропейского совещания по охране окружающей среды.

Германская Демократическая Республика поддерживает развитие международного сотрудничества в целях решения проблем в области защиты окружающей среды и все усилия, направленные на охрану окружающей человека среды и рациональное использование естественных ресурсов. Общеввропейское совещание по охране окружающей среды представляет собой еще один важный шаг в направлении выполнения рекомендаций Заключительного акта Совещания по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе.

В наш век лишь совместными усилиями можно достичь решения глобальных проблем, затрагивающих жизнь каждого народа и всю систему международных отношений в целом.

Как это убедительно показывает сама жизнь, плодотворное развитие взаимного сотрудничества может осуществляться лишь в условиях мира. Поэтому Германская Демократическая Республика твердо выступает за международную разрядку и реалистические меры, направленные на прекращение гонки вооружений и достижение разоружения.

Самые последние мирные инициативы СССР являются убедительным доказательством искреннего стремления к миру. Народы ждут положительного ответа на эти важные и конструктивные предложения, касающиеся разоружения и сохранения мира. Действительное разоружение способствовало бы высвобождению огромных ресурсов для решения назревших проблем в области охраны окружающей среды.

Германская Демократическая Республика убеждена в том, что Общеввропейское совещание по охране окружающей среды внесет значительный вклад в нормализацию международных отношений.

Я желаю Совещанию успеха в его работе.