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Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Neutral and
Non-aligned Countries of the CSCE, Helsinki, 1-2 November 1990

COMMUNIQUE

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Liechtenstein, Malta, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia met in Helsinki on 1-2 November 1990 in order to discuss the CSCE process and the strengthening of its role, assess the preparations for the CSCE Summit in Paris and consider the future cooperation of their countries within the CSCE process.

The Ministers stated the view that the CSCE Summit, to be held in Paris on 19-21 November 1990, will highlight the opening of a new era of relations between the CSCE participating States marked by respect for human rights, development of democracy, market economy and social justice as well as by intensified cooperation in the field of security. They stressed the importance of respect for and putting into practice all the Principles of the Final Act. They recognized that in order to strengthen security and cooperation in Europe any conflict undermining them must be resolved by peaceful means and in conformity with the Final Act Principles.

They discussed the preparations for the Paris Summit under way at the Preparatory Committee in Vienna. They expressed the view that a substantive and future-oriented political document should be adopted at the Summit. They called for

further intensification of its preparations and expressed the readiness of their countries to contribute to that end.

The Ministers, recognizing the significance of national minorities in the societies of the CSCE States, expressed support for the convening of a meeting of experts to be held in Switzerland in 1991.

The Ministers reiterated the commitment of their Governments to peaceful settlement of disputes. They stressed the need for a comprehensive method which includes mandatory third-party involvement. Full use should be made of the Meeting of Experts in Valletta in 1991.

They underlined the importance of reaching before the Paris Summit a substantive document at the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-building Measures (CSBMs). They expressed their satisfaction at the prospect of a major agreement at the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) before the Summit. They stressed the importance of the continuation of both negotiations after the Paris Summit. They also considered that a second seminar on military doctrines should be held in Vienna in early 1991.

Taking note of the profound changes in the European military environment and recalling the importance they attach to the development of the military security dimension of the CSCE, the Ministers called for the creation of a single CSCE forum for negotiations on military security in Europe. They considered that consultations on a mandate should be opened among all participating States in the spring of 1991 with a view to beginning the new negotiations after the Helsinki CSCE follow-up meeting.

They expressed their firm view that the CSCE participating States should develop political dialogue in order to promote cooperation and security in Europe and that to this end the Paris Summit should take decisions on new structures for the CSCE process. In this context the Ministers considered that it should be decided that regular meetings of participating

States should be held at the level of Heads of State or Government every two years, of Foreign Ministers twice a year and of senior officials as appropriate. They voiced their support for establishing a centre for the prevention of conflicts and setting up a CSCE secretariat. They stressed the importance of the creation of a parliamentary body for the CSCE to be based on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

They noted the broad exchange of views on the Mediterranean problems and welcomed the results achieved at the Meeting on the Mediterranean in Palma de Mallorca, which also highlighted the close link between security and cooperation in Europe and in the Mediterranean.

The Ministers expressed the view that the Helsinki follow-up meeting, to be opened in March 1992, will have an important role in reviewing and developing further the decisions to be taken at the Paris Summit. They therefore stressed the need for thorough preparations of the Helsinki follow-up meeting.

The Ministers stressed the commitment of their countries to continuing and developing their cooperation within the CSCE process and, in view of the envisaged regular meetings of representatives of CSCE States, expressed their preparedness to meet as frequently as necessary.

The Ministers emphasized the significance they attach to the continuing contribution of the Neutral and Non-aligned countries to the future development of the CSCE process and to the shaping up of a new and democratic Europe in the interest of all.

The Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of Finland for the excellent organization of the meeting as well as for their warm hospitality.

Helsinki, 2 November 1990