

Decisions

The Deputies

1. adopted the following reply to Assembly Recommendation 988 on East/West relations:

"East/West relations and the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) are still at the heart of the political dialogue within the Committee of Ministers, as it will develop and deepen in pursuance of Resolution (84)21 of 21 November 1984 on Council of Europe action in the political field. The Ministers discussed these issues at length at the Committee's 75th Session and will have a further opportunity of doing so at the special meeting in Strasbourg on 29 January 1985, to which the Chairman of the Committee, Mr H-D. Genscher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, has invited them. Current and future meetings, such as the Stockholm Conference on disarmament, the Ottawa meeting on human rights, the Budapest Cultural Forum, the 10th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the Berne meeting on human contacts, and, above all, the forthcoming CSCE meeting in Vienna in 1986 are thus helping to intensify exchanges of views between Council of Europe member States.

During these discussions in the Committee of Ministers, participants will continue to keep a close eye on developments in all the CSCE countries with regard to the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid final document. However, in response to the request

newly formulated by the Assembly in Recommendation 988, the Committee of Ministers can only repeat what it said in connection with Recommendation 973, namely that the Council of Europe does not itself possess the resources needed to collect detailed and reliable information for each of the CSCE countries.

However, the Committee of Ministers is prepared, as it has already indicated in its reply to Recommendation 973, to do everything in its power to help improve exchanges between the Committee and the Assembly on the content of the political dialogue on the CSCE process and East/West relations in general. It accordingly welcomes the growing number of opportunities for meetings and discussion between the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the relevant Assembly Committees, such as the exchange of views held on 10 December 1984 between the Committee on Relations with European Non-Member Countries and Mr Möllemann, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the meeting between the Political Affairs Committee and the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, scheduled for March 1985 in Bonn. The Committee is convinced that meetings of the Joint Committee, whether at Deputy level or on the occasion of the annual Colloquy with the Ministers, could also be used more effectively to promote a fuller exchange of information and opinion between the governments and Assembly representatives on the CSCE process.";