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LE CHEF
DU DÉPARTEMENT FÉDÉRAL
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

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Bern, December 9, 1991

Mr Minister, dear Colleague,

I thank you for your letter of October 18 containing some ideas for the forthcoming Prague Meeting of the Council. I am happy to tell you that I think along the same lines as you have expressed them in your letter. It is also my opinion that the Council and the CSO must keep their central position in the CSCE. Hence the three institutions must be subordinate to the Council and the CSO, serving, as you say, to implement the latter's decisions. The CSO's role should indeed be enhanced as it is its duty to prepare the work of the Council. I fully agree that the CSO meetings should, as a rule, be held at the seat of the Secretariat except those preceding Council meetings. It is furthermore my opinion that the resource list of the Human Dimension Mechanism should be established at the Secretariat, and that respective meetings should be held in Prague. Together with the participating States the CSO has certain responsibilities for the Moscow Mechanism. Since the tasks of the institution are strictly administrative, it seems logical to bestow the Secretariat with the list as the Secretariat provides the Council and the CSO with its administrative and logistical support and keeps a permanent link to them.

It is still my conviction that the CSCE structures should remain light and flexible. Yet they need some improvement. However, the improvement will have to be reflected upon and therefore I think the forthcoming Council meeting can

His Excellency
Mr Jiří Dienstbier
Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

Prague

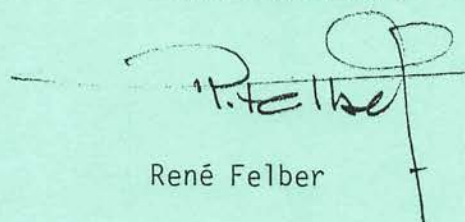
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streamline our thoughts and give some indicative impetus, yet the main work will have to be done in Helsinki. The possible future tasks of the CPC will largely depend on the mandate for the new security negotiations. This mandate will have to be worked out at the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting. As regards the change of the Office for Free Elections into an office of democratic institutions acting as a clearing-house for the cooperation between the CSCE participating States, I have a certain concern that this may lead to a duplication of work with the Council of Europe. Therefore I strongly favour that an organic link be established between the Warsaw office and the Strasbourg organization.

Furthermore it is extremely important to develop the instruments for an effective conflict prevention. Switzerland supports a proposal to create peace-keeping forces in the framework of the CSCE. The recent developments in a participating State have clearly shown that fact finding, good offices, military observers and peace-keeping forces in the CSCE could prove useful. The subject will have to be addressed soon and prepared thoroughly.

Wishing you all the best with the preparation of the next Council meeting, I look forward to seeing you in January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Felber', with a large, stylized flourish above the name and a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

René Felber