

International Relations: The dissolution of the Soviet Union

Needless to say, from the outset we supported policies like Gorbachev's, the policies of Perestroika and Glasnost, and we also supported the democratisation process. And then, in addition, within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which had played a very important role since the 1970s, the Helsinki process, what we stood for and was actually happening was that issues such as the structuring of democracy and fundamental rights were being universally applied.

The tragedy in Yugoslavia

The proposal I made, and which parliament supported, was to bring together the parliamentary heads of the Yugoslav Republics. And in truth, what struck me was the extreme degree of confrontation between Serbs and Croats. It was remarkable; they were like fighting cocks.

It was terrible and it is one of those frustrations that have continued to haunt me because the fact is that the Yugoslav tragedy – first in Vukovar, in Croatia, and later on in Bosnia and Herzegovina – was not only a tragedy in terms of the magnitude of its historical and human aspects, but also because, in a sense, it dragged us back to a past that we thought the continent had put behind it.