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edited by
A. BLOED and P. VAN DIJK

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This collection of studies is an initiative of the Helsinki Group of the Netherlands Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights, which is the Dutch branch of the International Committee of Jurists. Its purpose is to discuss certain of the issues in the field of human rights and humanitarian problems against the background of the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), held in September 1983, and of its Concluding Document, especially in the East-West context and mainly from a legal point of view. Just as at the preceding CSCE meetings, human rights issues took a prominent place in the discussions and negotiations at the Madrid meeting. The serious differences of opinion in this field between East and West were highlighted once again, but some signs of development and progress also became clear. The new commitments on human rights and in the humanitarian field in the Concluding Document are an example of these. These developments and the progress which has resulted from them, as well as some of the remaining problems, are analysed in this volume.

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