

States. Democracy cannot exist without respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

As of now, Canada is reviewing its offers of technical assistance and new lines of credit for the purchase of foodstuffs. Developments in the Baltic States will also have an impact on the agreements reached during Mr. Clark's visit to Moscow and in our discussions at the CSCE Paris Summit.

I must stress that further escalation will have serious consequences for our relations. As Mr. Clark advised the Soviet Ambassador, at this time of heightened international tension, we are watching events not only in the Gulf, but in the U.S.S.R. as well. In circumstances such as these, you should not underestimate the force of Canadian and world opinion.

That was the Prime Minister's letter to Mr. Gorbachev, and I am prepared to lay it on the table of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Honourable Member understands, as others in the House do, the constraints that are upon us as a country. I have made it very clear that the circumstances under which I could meet elected leaders, other parliamentarians who hold government office from the Baltic States, was in my capacity as a parliamentarian. That has been understood by all of them and I think clearly understood by members of the Baltic community in Canada. It was certainly in that capacity that I met the parliamentarian who is Vice-President of Latvia today.

Mr. Speaker, officials of the departments of External Affairs and International Trade are in continuous contact with representatives of the Baltic communities and concerned individuals.

For example, we are continuing to facilitate the shipment of medical supplies to Lithuania and to other Baltic States.

In Moscow our embassy has been repeating Canada's message, the message of the House of Commons and our government to the Soviets through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there, including a conversation today between Ambassador Michael Bell of Canada and the new Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh of the Soviet Union.

An embassy officer is on the ground in Vilnius providing consular services to Canadians in the region and acting as a channel of communication. He is in direct contact with President Landsbergis.