

by External Affairs Minister Joe Clark in Toronto on 5 May 1990.⁸ Canada's position henceforth would be one of cooperation and encouragement.

For its part, the Soviet Union has assiduously cultivated Canadian friendship over the past two years. Prime Minister Mulroney's visit to the USSR in November of 1989 was reciprocated by President Gorbachev at the end of May 1990. Canada has focussed its efforts mainly on economic assistance as a means to encourage the Soviet Union on its current path.⁹ Nonetheless Canadian officials found openings for Canada to express its profound concern over events in the Baltic republics.

Prior to his visit to the USSR, the Prime Minister reiterated that Canada has never recognized the legality of Soviet rule in the Baltic and promised to raise the matter with President Gorbachev in "the normal course of [the] visit."¹⁰ The Soviets indicated their willingness to discuss the issue if raised.¹¹ Mr. Mulroney did express Canada's concerns in his general discussions with the Soviet leader on 22 November 1989.¹²

In discussion the following day with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, External Affairs Minister Clark expressed concern about the possible suppression of the Baltic nationalist movements. In Mr. Clark's words, he "indicated to him that there would naturally be concern on the part of Canadians, not simply those of Baltic origin, if there was that kind of development."¹³

Shevardnadze assured Clark that neither he nor the police nor the military were expecting a crackdown.

In the five months between the Mulroney visit to the USSR and the Gorbachev visit to Ottawa, the Baltic crisis heightened. Lithuania's declaration of independence and the imposition of the Soviet economic blockade occurred just before Gorbachev's scheduled stopover on 30 May and 1 June 1990. During that time, Mr. Clark and other officials at External Affairs were in contact with Soviet officials to urge moderation and a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

⁸ "Speech by Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Canadian Club...." Ottawa: Department of External Affairs, *Canadian Foreign Policy Series* 89/12, 5 May 1989.

⁹ Charlotte Montgomery, *Globe and Mail*, 27 September 1989, p. A5.

¹⁰ Jeff Sallot, *Globe and Mail*, 20 November 1989, p. A1.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. A2.

¹² *Commons Debates*, 27 November 1989, p. 6235; and *Globe and Mail*, 22 November 1989, p. 2.

¹³ Julian Beltrame, *Ottawa Citizen*, 23 November 1989, p. A3.