

their efforts to assume responsibility for their own destinies. Canada refuses to recognize de jure the forced incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. Our position of principle on this matter will not change, and the legitimate aspirations of the Baltic peoples must be met. Canada continues to recognize de facto Soviet control over the Baltic States, but to recognize it does not mean we accept its legitimacy.

Large numbers of Canadians are seeking more extensive contacts with the Baltic States. Joint ventures are being pursued, private exchanges of businessmen are occurring, officials of my department have met members of the popular fronts. Canada can help with some of the major problems facing the Baltic States-- the need for economic modernization and development, the threat from environmental pollution, and the need to preserve national identities. The role of my Department is to enhance the potential for contact and communication between the people of Canada and the people of the Baltic States. We will not, however, jeopardize our policy of non-recognition de jure.

The Prime Minister will visit the Soviet Union in November. The business people accompanying him are keen to identify commercial opportunities, and should be encouraged to look to the Baltic States.

In rethinking our relationship with the Warsaw Pact countries, we do not forget the human rights concerns which remain to be satisfied, nor do we forget the aspirations of minorities. But we must recognize change where it has occurred and seek new ways to strengthen the processes already under way.