



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

No: 83  
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: OCTOBER 26, 1979

## TRIALS OF CZECH DISSIDENTS

Following is the text of the message sent today by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, to Mr. Bohuslav Chnoupek, Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia:

"Mr. Minister,

I wish to inform you that on October 25th the House of Commons of Canada unanimously adopted a motion expressing its very strong concern regarding the trials of members of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted, which ended in Prague on October 23rd. I also wish to inform you that I personally am deeply concerned over this matter.

In light of the defendants' activities in relation to the Helsinki Accords, I wish to express the hope that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia will review the court decisions, given the commitments our respective countries assumed under the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act.

Flora MacDonald,  
Secretary of State  
for External Affairs."

It should be noted that an earlier motion adopted by the House of Commons on October 22 on the trials of members of the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted has already been transmitted to the Czech authorities.