

suspension of activity at all in our relations with the Soviet Union as a result of this move?

Mr. Sharp: I would think not, indeed, as I have already said, it is, I think, of the utmost importance for the future that we should not despair of the possibilities of promoting peaceful relations between the Soviet Union and the NATO Alliance, for example. Notwithstanding this setback, we must try to maintain the dialogue, because the significance of these events seems to be that the Soviet Union is very reluctant to see freedom proceed more quickly in satellite countries than in the Soviet Union itself. But it must be the hope of the world that we will see greater freedom for all these peoples and that it should be our endeavour to try to promote good relations between the East and the West, notwithstanding the fact that we condemn this particular action as all free people must condemn it.

Mr. Sauvé: What would be the number of Canadian people in Czechoslovakia at the present time, and have you started the first phase of pulling out the families of these people, the Canadian Embassy personnel over there?

Mr. Sharp: I have no reason to think that Canadians are in any danger. We are in communication with our Embassy there - there is no difficulty - and the report we have is that all the Canadians whose presence is known in Czechoslovakia are safe and we will be, of course, facilitating their leaving Czechoslovakia if they wish to leave. Some of them may want to continue in the business that they're engaged in. I have spoken to a few people myself, and I've encouraged them to let us know the names of any of their friends or relations that they're concerned about