

required. And, as the House knows and as I have said, I met earlier this evening with the Vice-President of Latvia.

Making any assessment difficult is the lack of coherence in Moscow among the various constituencies vying for power. Russian Republic President Yeltsin has joined the Baltic States in opposing the centre. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Moscow, yesterday, calling for Mr. Gorbachev's resignation and the restoration of democracy. Meanwhile, the situation in other republics is increasingly tense, in Georgia, in Armenia, in Moldavia and in Ukraine. Mr. Gorbachev and the military have threatened them with similar treatment if they do not knuckle under. Many believe that the Baltic States are the dress rehearsal.

Last spring, Canada welcomed the free elections in the Baltic States, stressing our support for the right of their peoples to determine their own future. We protested the Soviet resort to intimidation. In my parliamentary capacity, I met with the then Prime Minister of Lithuania, Madame Prunskiene. Canada moved quickly to express its concern about the dangerous situation currently developing in the Baltic States. In December, the Prime Minister and I, in our parliamentary capacities, met with Lithuanian President Landsbergis, Latvian Prime Minister Godmanis and Foreign Minister Jurkans. I wrote to former Foreign Minister Shevardnadze on December 13 seeking confirmation of explicit assurances that were given to me and to the Prime Minister, a year ago, that there would be no crackdown in the Baltic States. On January 8 and January 11, the Soviet Ambassador was called in.

I, on behalf of the Government of Canada, issued tough statements. Canada's reaction to the tragic events in Vilnius was among the strongest to come from any democracy in the Western world.

The Prime Minister wrote immediately to President Gorbachev. He issued a strong condemnation calling on the Soviet President to show restraint and to negotiate settlements based on the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. He reminded him that, at this time of heightened international tension, Canadians were watching events in the U.S.S.R. just as we were watching events in the Gulf.

At the same time, the Prime Minister announced that Canada was reviewing its offer of technical assistance and the new \$150 million line of credit. That is not food aid, but a commercial sale. We have drawn a direct linkage between Canadian assistance and the continuation of Soviet reform. I announced earlier that we were reviewing actions under those programs. I want to advise the House that we have now suspended any action