

which we can make progress through the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). I want to return to that theme a little bit later tonight.

As the two speakers preceding me have indicated, what is happening in Latvia and Lithuania is inseparable from the broader situation in the Soviet Union, a situation which becomes more troubling every day, particularly for those of us who were so encouraged by the movement towards glasnost and perestroika and so determined to do what we can to help those reforms succeed.

None of us wants the Soviet Union to crumble. All of us want reform in that society to succeed. We were encouraged, among other things, by the attitudes that had been shown generally earlier with respect to the status of the Baltic States. We are discouraged now, deeply discouraged, by actions that have become more violent and more dramatic in recent days.

There are things that we can do that we must consider to support the Baltic people, but we must try to do them in the context of encouraging the reform and the cohesion of the Soviet Union. That is a particularly difficult challenge for all of us, but it is, I think, Mr. Speaker, in everybody's interest, including the interest of the people in the Baltic States and the people of Baltic origin in Canada, that we seek a way that accomplishes or encourages together the reform that was started by Mr. Gorbachev in the Soviet Union and some movement towards the independence of the Baltic States.

There is no clear way, at least not clear to me, in which we can accomplish that goal tonight. But the Soviet Union, as it considers what it is doing now, and as it considers the importance to it of the support of a people and a government like ours, must understand that Canadians not only have commitments to human rights that are so much a part of our society, but also have a population that was formed in such large part by people who came from Eastern and Central Europe and from communities in what is now the Soviet Union.

Canadians cannot help but be profoundly affected by what is occurring in the Soviet Union now, and that if those actions do not stop, they are bound to have an effect for the worst upon the relations between Canada and the Soviet Union in a formal sense, but also, and perhaps in a much more important way, they are bound to dim and then to reverse the enthusiasm for reform that had been building among our own people, most particularly among people who had roots behind what used to be the Iron Curtain.

Canada's support for the Baltic States has been unwavering. We recognize their independence by right. We never