

I have been privileged to visit Sikh temples in Toronto. I have met with representatives of the Sikh community across the country. I have also celebrated with them the richness of Sikh traditions which are enhanced so much when the adherents of Sikh traditions are free to practise their religion in peace. I also had the sad duty, as I told the House earlier, in June, 1986, of dedicating a memorial in Dunmanus Bay, Ireland, to the victims of the Air India tragedy, many of whom were Canadian Sikhs.

However, let us face the facts. The activities of a small, militant minority in the Sikh community represent the most serious internal security threat that Canada faces today. Undeniably this minority seeks to dismember a friendly country, either through peaceful means or violent means. My friend, the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Kilgour), asked the other day whether there was not a difference between the World Sikh Organization and the other two. Indeed, Sir, there is a difference, but the constitution of the World Sikh Organization clearly states that one of its objectives is "to strive through peaceful means for the establishment of a Sikh nation, Khalistan". At the time that constitution was adopted there was a vigorous debate within the World Sikh Organization. They know then that their decision would be controversial and the consequence of their decision is that their objectives are incompatible with Canadian policy.

Let me give you, Sir, some background on the other two organizations mentioned in my letter. The Babbar Khalsa is an India-based international organization comprising Sikhs whose objectives are the eradication of Sikh apostasy and the establishment of an independent state of Khalistan. In India the Babbar Khalsa has been involved in numerous acts of terror against moderate Sikhs, Hindus and official representatives of the Government of India and its composite states. The Canadian branch is relatively small, but its total devotion to Sikh independence and its willingness to undertake acts of violence make it a serious source of concern.

In May, 1986, members of the Montreal area Canadian Babbar Khalsa were involved in a plot to place a bomb on an Air India flight from New York. Two were convicted and given life sentences. On May 25, 1986, four members of the ISYF attempted to assassinate a visiting Punjab state Minister in British Columbia. They were each sentenced to 20 years for this offence. As a Government, Sir, we cannot ignore these facts, nor can we ignore other cases of terrorism that we have encountered.

The International Sikh Youth Federation has its roots in the All India Sikh Student Federation, the largest and best organized Sikh extremist organization in India. The All India Sikh Student Federation activities and programs are directed