

The Canadian delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at Iran's having twice in 1990 agreed to receive the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights. We continue, nevertheless, to be concerned over reports of repeated violations of fundamental rights, such as the right to life, and of reports concerning the treatment of religious minorities contrary to recognized international standards. The Canadian delegation hopes that Iran and its people will continue to cooperate with the Commission representatives.

During the past year, we have received encouraging reports about improvements in the conditions under which certain members of minority communities in Syria are being detained.

At the same time, we continue to receive disturbing allegations about human rights violations in Syria, especially with regard to judicial procedure. We hope that Syria will take the measures necessary to clearly demonstrate its belief in international human rights conventions.

We welcome the significant progress in the USSR with respect to fundamental human rights and freedoms and the rule of law -- but concerns remain.

Canadians were appalled by the unwarranted military violence against the people and democratically-elected governments of Lithuania and Latvia. Such repressive behaviour is at odds with the Soviet commitment to Perestroika and Glasnost.

Canada recognizes the De Jure existence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and has never recognized their forcible annexation in the USSR. We fully support the rights of the peoples of each Baltic State to freely determine their own future. We urge the Soviet Government to seek negotiated solutions consistent with the legitimate aspirations of the Baltic States.

We were encouraged by assurances that the tragic events in Vilnius and Riga would be investigated, that violence was not part of Soviet Government plans, and that dialogue with Baltic leaders would be reopened. Actions speak louder than words, however. Negotiations in good faith should begin as soon as possible.

Canada is deeply disturbed by the gross and systematic human rights violations that have occurred in Myanmar. Reports of torture and arbitrary arrests have not abated.

The detentions and arrests of the leadership of the majority party in Myanmar's parliament, the undue restrictions imposed upon all political parties, as well as the actions taken against Buddhist organizations involved in last year's protests, are in blatant disregard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Building of democratic institutions depends crucially on the protection of human rights.

UNCLAS / NONCLAS
YT
PAGE 6 OF 1 DE 33

9

10

11

12

13

14

15