

The aspirations of the Baltic peoples will not be met all at once. But there has been real progress. This Government applauds the efforts of the Baltic peoples to assume responsibility for their own destinies. Glasnost and perestroika provide a context in which a new reality is unfolding, from which we hope there will be no turning back.

Canada continues to refuse to recognize de jure the forced incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. We give substance to that position in a number of important ways:

- First, federal government Ministers and Ambassadors do not travel to the Baltic Republics.
- Second, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania remain acceptable designations as places of origin on Canadian passport and immigration documents, and
- Third, as a result of a policy I initiated last year, a disclaimer now appears on all federally-produced maps of the Baltic region reiterating our policy of no de jure recognition of the Soviet annexation.

Our position of principle on this matter will not change. The legitimate aspirations of the Baltic peoples must be met. The basis on which the Soviet Union incorporated the Baltic States was illegal and immoral. The situation must be put right.

There is now a new reality in the Baltic States and together we must determine our response to it. Canada continues to recognize de facto Soviet control over the Baltic States. To recognize it is not to accept its legitimacy. It is the reality. But we have a choice. We can turn our backs on the Baltic region altogether, thereby denying courageous people the encouragement and contact we can offer. Or we can maintain our de jure position and work within the realm of the possible to improve the life of the people there, many of whom are family to you here tonight.

Large numbers of Canadians, particularly those of Baltic origin, are seeking more extensive contacts with the Baltic States, for personal, family, cultural, sports, or commercial purposes. Many of them seek the leadership and assistance of the Canadian Government. So do members of the popular fronts whom officials of my department have met over the past few months, both in Canada and in the Baltic States. A private exchange, under which 28 Estonian businessmen are studying the capitalist market system at York University, has been established and funded by Canadians, most of Estonian origin. Joint ventures between Canadian and Baltic interests are being pursued. There will be a demand for more exchanges to permit closer contacts and establish joint ventures, so that the people of the Baltic States can rebuild the market skills they traditionally possessed and, broaden people-to-people contacts.