

We have deplored the treatment of Helsinki monitors, whose only crime was to take seriously the solemn declarations made by their government. We have called for the release of other political prisoners, and for changes in Soviet law that would no longer make it a punishable offence to criticize the state. We have pressed for recognition of the right of people to monitor their government's observance of commitments and to promote respect for human rights, and for effective remedies for those punished for such action. We are demanding a firmer commitment to the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his own country. We are seeking agreement to a range of measures that would reduce the bureaucratic and other impediments to personal travel, to emigration, and to family reunification and family visits. We have called for guarantees by governments of the integrity and privacy of postal and telephone communications, for freer movement of visitors within their home country including the ability to stay in private homes, and for a freer flow of information of all kinds.

In preparing for CSCE meetings, we have invited many interested Canadians, including Ukrainian-Canadian groups, to provide us with information and views. We shall continue to do so, and I reaffirm an open invitation to contact my officials at any time. Often you, and not governments, are the best source of accurate information as to what is happening in the Soviet Union, particularly regarding the welfare and circumstances of family and friends.

Mr. President, if there is any single characteristic that marks us as members of Canadian society, it is that we are free. Not everyone is free, as Danylo Shumuk can testify. Some systems of government deny freedom for their own people, and would limit it elsewhere. Europe today is divided between countries where citizens are free, and countries where they are not. That difference is based on a struggle between systems - and in that struggle over freedom, Canada is not neutral.

We have fought for freedom in Europe in two World Wars. We welcome refugees and immigrants who come here to be free. We are active influential members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - NATO - and we will continue to be, because the defence of freedom is not finished.

Our presence, with our allies, on the front lines in Europe, is a sign to the West, and a sign to the East, that nations who value freedom will not be divided. Those who would pull Canada out of Europe would abandon Canada's duty and offend Canada's history. That is not the policy of this government.